

THE NATIONAL WOOLCROWER

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NUMBER 2

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THE NATIONAL WOOLCROWER ASSOCIATION

THE NATIONAL WOOLCROWING CORPORATION

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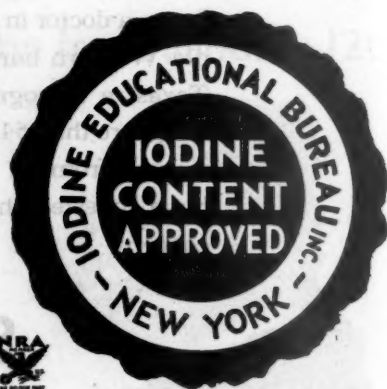
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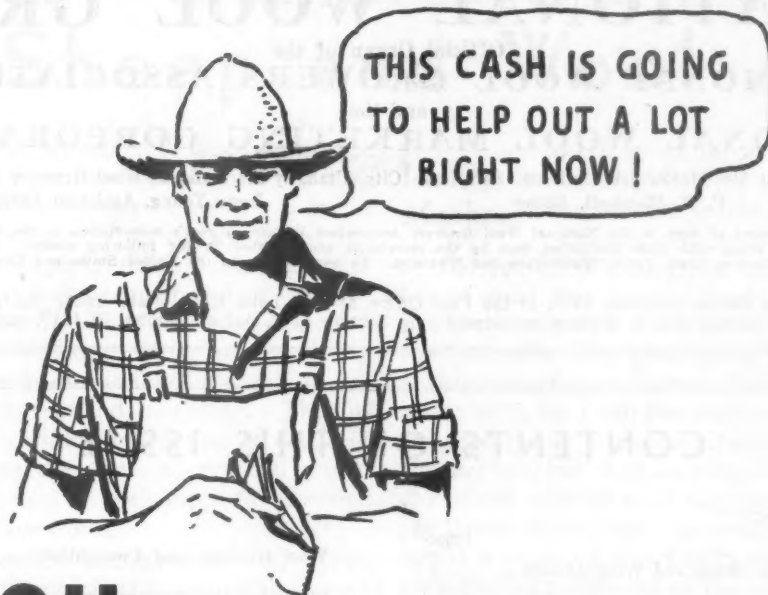
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The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
and the
NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION

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Editorial Comment on Sheep and Wool Affairs

Recent statements of Secretary Wallace show that there is recognition within the Agricultural Adjustment Administration of the danger of going too far in lowering production of export crops. **A.A.A. Policies** In-crease of agricultural income must be aided by industrial improvement and re-employment of labor. This the administration now is attempting in more conservative style to bring about by cooperation with business and returning confidence in private enterprise and financing. The interest of A.A.A. in controlling production of cattle or sheep arose mostly from the desire to get full results at home from the reduction of pork supplies, of which a large part normally is for export.

Most of the economic forecasters see early price advances in grain and livestock through small drouth crops and reduced numbers of livestock. Higher lamb markets at the beginning of December and active movement of wools in November 1935 **Prices** brought wool growers encouragement for the coming year. Quantity buying of wool by the mills was the first since February. Heavy inventories of wool and cloth had been carried over from the rising period of 1933 and now are exhausted. The public came to the stores for woolen goods and when the business got going manufacturers came into the market for 1934 wools.

Goods buying started up when prices were raised. This proves the soundness and value of the policy of the Wool Advisory Committee and the trade in holding to wool prices representing importing parity. **Wool Sales** Clamor there was, long and loud, for cutting wool prices to a point that would force public buying. November events justify the opposite view which prevailed, again showing that it was not the price of wool that made slow business. If the selling of goods had been handled as wisely as was wool selling, the upturn could have come sooner.

With large supplies of 1934 wool still on hand, higher prices are not to be looked for unless parity should be advanced by higher markets abroad. Activity in the market is what every one needs. With volume sales continuing, the wool carryover need be no drag on the 1935 season. Some of the best periods in the wool trade have been seen when supplies were large but their effect overbalanced by real activity and strong buying at the mills.

At the beginning of December lamb prices at Chicago had almost reached the eight-cent mark. This came only after a material shortening of the supply. On

Lamb Markets

the basis of reports of numbers of lambs on feed, the supply situation for the coming months should produce prices that are remunerative to the feeders. At the close of the fed-lamb season last spring, prices were high, but as usual, purchases of lambs made this fall for feed lots were taken on the basis of the low current prices for fat lambs. The good spring prices faded out rapidly as shipments began to move from the range, though receipts were far from burdensome. Lamb raisers like to see good prices when their feeder friends are supplying the markets, but they are puzzled and discouraged when the bloom goes off with the movement of young milk-fat lambs direct from the producers. If this 1934 reversal is repeated when 1935 lambs reach the markets, then the befuddlement of the growers will be complete.

In his report of the November market at Chicago, in this issue, Mr. Poole dwells upon the effects of chain store buying. The arguments are the same as have frequently been related to producers as explanations of queer price situations. Unfortunately, the explanation does not satisfy. **Chain Buying** In the last five months, the lamb trade has had an absurdly low top, much below that for hogs and cattle. Yet any power over prices exerted by the chains could as well be put upon beef and pork as upon lamb. The number of interstate distributors of lamb is no greater than for beef and pork. Cattle and hog prices have done well with supplies fully as large in proportion to other times as has been the case with lambs. The concentration of chain buying of carcasses is no greater, and probably less than the concentration of lamb buying and selling in interstate or inter-regional trade. If the dictum of the chain stores to the lamb salesmen when prices should rise is to "take it or leave it," and they will handle lamb only at their own price, then how can it be that the dressed prices ever do advance? It still must appear to the grower that he is not so adversely affected by paucity of competition among buyers of lamb carcasses as by what Mr. Poole terms "strangulation of competition" in the live markets.

The apparent lack of competition at some of the larger markets is causing many shippers to change their views on selling at home. It must be admitted that prices are based on market quotations and that these quotations may be depressed when country sales predominate or withhold top grades from the public markets. It may seem a short-sighted policy to sell lambs at home; but it

Home Selling

must also be recognized that present necessities require all possible economies in shrinkage and expense, and today these do not seem to be offset in the case of lambs by going to the public market in the attempt to help in establishing correct values.

Stockyard and commission interests are making a strong effort to bring livestock back to the public markets. Returning better buying practices at those markets will be more effective than curtailing opportunities for home selling.

Renewal of Forest Grazing Permits

PRESS releases from the western offices of the Forest Service show that in at least some cases only annual permits will be issued next year. When the final order was issued in 1927 regarding grazing permits, it was agreed by the Forest Service that property holders should receive 10-year permits. These were issued quite largely at that time and were due to be renewed in 1935.

Last month western representatives of the U. S. Forest Service were in conference at Ogden, Utah, and it is understood that considerable attention was given to renewal of grazing permits. One of the officials made the statement after the conference that adjustments in numbers of livestock grazed in the forests would need to be made to meet demands for smaller owners and also because of the lowered forage production resulting from drouths of recent years. It was indicated that only annual grazing permits might be issued until this adjustment had been completed.

Some of the western grazing officials have been called to Washington and more definite announcement is expected early in January as to the extent of reductions for distribution or for range protection to the areas in which such is considered necessary.

Taylor Act Districts

A SURPRISING move was made by the Department of the Interior on November 28, when it was announced that President Roosevelt had signed an executive order withdrawing from entry virtually all of the remaining unappropriated public domain.

This is one of the announcements issued from Washington by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, following Director F. R. Carpenter's consultation with the Secretary and other officials in November. Prior to that time several of the western states had accepted the recommendations of Director Carpenter as presented in public meetings, and approved the organization of large grazing districts, of which the details of administration were to be worked out in cooperation with elected committees representing owners of cattle and sheep who had applied for permits to graze on the public domain.

The announcement from Washington also contained a new list of dates for meetings to be held in all the public land states. The announcement showed three purposes in these meetings: (1) to consider organization of grazing districts; (2) the segregation of natural grazing areas and organization into districts; (3) the classification of all other land for sale, lease, or exchange with states and railroads. The dates of the meetings now announced are as follows:

December 4, Malta, Mont.
December 7, Billings, Mont.
December 10, Casper, Wyo.
December 15, Vale, Ore.
December 17, Boise, Idaho
December 19, Salt Lake City, Utah.
December 29, Montrose, Colo.
January 3, Bismarck, N. D.
January 8, Rapid City, S. D.
January 14, Albuquerque, N. M.
January 17, Bakersfield, Calif.
January 24, Reno, Nev.
January 28, Phoenix, Arizona.

The Wool Grower has been unable to secure any official statement from Mr. Carpenter or Washington officials concerning the reasons for setting dates which are in some cases earlier than those previously advertised. It appears, however, that the Department of the Interior officials are anxious to hasten the organization of the districts in all of the western states.

The announcement also indicated that classification and exchange of lands, as provided for in the Taylor Act, may be completed before the actual administration of grazing districts is begun. Secretary Ickes has agreed to issue the call for a meeting in January of land officials of all the public domain states. At this time an attempt will be made to work out a plan for the handling of state controlled lands, either by segregation into separate bodies or by reaching a basis upon which the state land can be administered through the same machinery as handles the federal lands. The segregation or administration of railroad lands may also be agreed upon before the issuance of permits for grazing on the public domain.

It appears to be the intent of Washington to hasten the classification not only of government lands but also of the lands owned or leased by those applying for grazing permits within the districts being set up. The purpose of this is to determine the amount of livestock that will need to be grazed by those entitled to preferences under the Taylor Act, and to measure this against the carrying capacity of the districts. Unless the districts offer more grazing than is required for preference holders, no others will be admitted.

Utah stockmen, in a meeting held in Salt Lake City on December 1, approved the action of the President and the Department of the Interior in withdrawing the public domain lands from entry pending the completion of arrangements for administration of grazing districts and the classification and exchange of lands.

Wool Growers and Conventions

If ever there was a time when a wool grower could afford to be indifferent as to what went on at conventions of his industry, that day has passed.

The return of better markets seems assured, but future profit margins that are narrower than in the prosperous twenties also seem certain. There must be closer figuring in production and marketing. If there is inflation, or if prices advance without inflation, expenses will follow such and the sheepmen must be well-informed and very alert to secure a margin that will cover more than interest and payments on loan principals.

This winter the wool growers must analyze the attempts at production control which are being made by new governmental agencies and which may be extended. Lamb marketing problems are growing more serious. Not all of the remedy can be found in quality production. Every producer is affected by the changes being made in wool and lamb marketing methods and the conventions offer the best opportunity to get up-to-date on what is going on and to get the best opinions for guidance in determining his own policies.

Convention resolutions are important. Government officials, stockyard and railroad operators, manufacturers and distributors of woolen goods consult them to learn what the wool growers are doing and what they stand for. The fact that resolutions and committee reports often are adopted without much debate should not mislead any one. There has been hot discussion and compromise in committee before the resolutions were brought out. It is the privilege of any member to appear before any committee of which he is not a member and support or oppose actions or expressions of attitude that are under consideration. It is the further right and duty of every member to speak out in convention on any proposal that a committee may bring out.

This year there is much to be learned and passed upon in connection with government control of the public domain and the renewal of forest grazing permits. Government representatives in control of these things will be on hand, wanting to know how different individuals and sections would be affected by rules or regulations which have been proposed for application.

Governmental policies on credit, grazing, or production must have some basic rules and policies. As

these affect sheep raising they can be worked out in the National Convention. To get the best-considered national program for the industry, it is essential that these questions be studied exhaustively in the states, and such decision and recommendations presented and followed up in the National Convention, by delegates who will support the position of their own associations and at the same time consider the wishes of other associations if there is conflict of interest or opinion.

Some states have announced their stands on these new questions in recent conventions. The others will do so in January and in advance of the Phoenix convention. Dates of these state meetings appear on this page.

Don't Miss the National

A good representative attendance at Phoenix where the Seventieth Annual Convention of the National Wool Growers Association will open on January 29 for a three-day meeting, is looked for. It is a good time for sheepmen to get perspective by getting away from the business for a few days, and Phoenix is always a delightful convention city. Spring

should be putting on all her airs down there at that time and from the heavy opening of the winter over the entire northern area, certainly an opportunity to spend a few days in the warmth of Arizona's climate and hospitality should add whatever else is necessary to induce wool growers to make the extra effort to be at the National in Phoenix.

Railroad Rates

The convention dates enable wool growers to take advantage of the very good railroad rates that are in effect at that time. Below are listed some of these rates from representative points in the sheep-raising territory. The tickets purchased at these rates are round-trip, good for ten days unless a 21-day limit is indicated; stop-over privileges are allowed on all of them.

Railroad officials have suggested that before tickets are purchased, inquiry should be made of the local agent as to whether or not special rates of any kind, holiday, etc., are in effect.

Also all the fares quoted are first class. You can secure cheaper fares, tourist and coach; for these you

CALENDAR CONVENTIONS

National Wool Growers, Phoenix,
Arizona—January 29-31

American National Livestock Association,
Rapid City, S. D.—January 9-11, 1935

Idaho Wool Growers, Boise—January 10-12

Oregon Wool Growers, Heppner—January
14-15

Washington Wool Growers, Yakima—Janu-
ary 17-18

Montana Wool Growers, Butte—January
21-23

Utah Wool Growers, Salt Lake—January
24-25

LIVESTOCK SHOWS

Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah—
January 7-10, 1935

National Western Live Stock Show, Denver
—January 12-19

should consult your nearest railroad agency.

Washington—

Spokane	\$70.35	via S. Lake and Colton, Cal., S.P.
Yakima	70.30	"

Oregon—

Portland	57.60	(21 day)
Salem	55.50	(21 day)
Pendleton	65.45	via S. Lake
The Dalles	67.70	"
Heppner	68.75	"
Shaniko	70.50	"
Bend	71.50	"
Condon	69.15	"
Baker	60.35	"
Lakeview	47.10	(21 day)

Idaho—

Weiser	57.55	via S. Lake
Boise	54.85	"
Mt. Home	52.95	"
Gooding	50.40	"
Bliss	50.95	"
Pocatello	45.45	"
Idaho Falls	47.50	"
Soda Springs	39.70	"
Sand Point	73.10	"

Montana—

Missoula	60.85	"
Deer Lodge	57.65	"
Butte	56.05	"
Helena	60.15	"
Havre	68.40	"
Great Falls	63.45	"
Livingston	60.85	"
Billings	65.50	"
Miles City	71.35	"
Dillon	66.55	"
Bozeman	59.85	"

North Dakota—

Devil's Lake	90.35	"
Fargo	91.15	"

South Dakota—

Brookings	74.40	via AT&SF
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Wyoming—

Cody	68.10	
Lovell	65.70	
Thermopolis	61.45	
Casper	56.05	
Douglas	53.95	
Cheyenne	47.15	via Denver and AT&SF
Laramie	49.50	"
Rock Springs	47.80	via S. Lake and Colton
Rawlins	52.60	"
Evanston	43.20	"

Utah—

Echo	41.70	via S. Lake and Colton
Ogden	40.10	(21 day)
Logan	43.05	via S. Lake and Colton
Salt Lake	38.65	(21 day)
Mt. Pleasant	58.45	

Marysville	62.60
Fountain Green	59.90
*Delta	38.30
*Milford	35.40
*Cedar City	35.30
Price	56.90

Colorado—

Ft. Collins	45.65
Greeley	45.05
Denver	42.90
Pueblo	38.15
Rocky-Ford	37.40
Montrose	47.35
Rifle	48.85
Grand Junction	51.35

New Mexico—

Albuquerque	20.75
Las Vegas	25.51
Roswell	32.20

Arizona—

Holbrook	13.75	(21 days)
Flagstaff	10.10	"
Prescott	5.50	"
Tucson	4.80	"

Nevada—

*Elko	47.90	(21 days)
*Wells	47.90	"
Winnemucca	43.50	"
Lovelock	40.65	"
Reno	36.60	"
*Caliente	30.70	
*Las Vegas	25.70	

Texas—

El Paso	17.25
Sonora	35.25
Del Rio	31.76
San Angelo	32.85
Kerrville	40.49
San Antonio	37.85
Ft. Worth	37.85
Amarillo	31.70

California—

Alturas	46.70	(21 days)
Susanville	40.60	"
Red Bluff	35.85	"
Chico	34.00	"
Sacramento	30.50	"
San Francisco	31.45	"
Stockton	28.60	"
Hanford	22.60	"
Bakersfield	19.45	"
Fresno	23.70	"
Los Angeles	16.90	"
Willows	37.05	"
Colusa	33.25	"
Marysville	32.25	"

*To obtain this rate, round-trip tickets should be bought to Colton, Calif., and at Colton round-trip tickets should be purchased to Phoenix.

**To obtain this rate, buy round-trip ticket to Los Angeles and at that point buy round-trip ticket to Phoenix.

There is also a bus service into Phoenix. From Salt Lake the trip

is a 28-hour one and costs \$12 one way, or \$21.60 for the round trip.

Hotel Rates

Phoenix has splendid hotel facilities and at moderate rates. Below is given a list of them. It has been suggested that reservations should be made as soon as possible in order to obtain the accommodation desired, because convention time coincides with the height of the regular winter vacation season in Arizona.

HOTEL RATES

Adams Hotel

Single Room, without bath	\$1.50 up
Single Room, with bath	2.50 up
Double Room, without bath	2.50 up
Double Room, with bath	3.50 up

Arizona Hotel

Single Room, without bath	1.50
Single Room, with bath	2.00
Double Room, without bath	2.00
Double Room, with bath	3.00

Jefferson Hotel

Single Room, without bath	1.00 up
Single Room, with bath	2.00 up
Double Room, without bath	2.00
Double Room, with bath	3.00

Hotel Luhrs

Operated on the European Plan.	
Rooms, without bath, or with bath or shower	1.50 up

San Carlos Hotel

Rooms with bath	2.50 up
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Westward Ho

Single Room	3.00 up
Double Room	5.00 up

All rooms with baths and having outside exposure.

ON THE HEIGHTS

The picture on the cover of this month's issue of the National Wool Grower is a Belden. That is all that it is really necessary to say, for the excellence of the work done by C. J. Belden of Pitchfork, Wyoming, in photographing sheep and cattle on western ranges has given him high rank and distinction in that type of art, not only in the West but over the country generally.

This is not a Christmas picture; indeed it is far-flung in time and space and character from that great pastoral scene of the shepherds watching their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem on the night of the Nativity, and it may not call up for you that great message of Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men. But we shall be satisfied if it carries to you our wish that faith and courage may be yours to follow your sheep until you too reach great heights, the heights of spiritual and physical well-being that must surely be at not too great a distance.

Financing the Cooperatives

By F. W. PECK,

Cooperative Bank Commissioner, Farm Credit Administration

IN ESTABLISHING the banks for cooperatives, the Farm Credit Act of 1933 took the financing of cooperative associations off a centralized and temporary basis and organized it for permanency. It brought financing for farm selling and purchasing out into the country close to production and primary markets. Looking to the future, it provides means by which the farm cooperatives may finance themselves through a government agency by recourse to the general money market on sound conditions rather than through the government treasury.

The new system is just what its name implies—a chain of banks to serve cooperatives, from the big national associations down to the small locals. The credit facilities they make available are designed to meet the peculiar needs of cooperatives, not with the idea of supplanting the commercial sources of credit but rather to supplement them.

In this chain are thirteen banks, the Central Bank for Cooperatives at Washington and twelve regional banks, one in each of the federal land bank districts. The Central Bank, with a capital of \$50,000,000, is set up for servicing the credit needs of the national and large regional associations that use relatively large sums of money in their operations. The regional banks for cooperatives, each with a capital of \$5,000,000, are organized to furnish the credit required by local cooperative associations.

Two types of loans are authorized. One is known as the "effective merchandising," or working capital, loan; the other is the "physical facility" loan.

Every cooperative organization requires a certain amount of money for operating capital. A substantial part of this, of course, is furnished

by the members. But occasionally additional funds are needed, and here is where the banks for cooperatives come into the picture. This



F. W. PECK

type of loan is used for various purposes. Some go to refinance indebtedness. Some serve as revolving funds to finance current operations or to pay expenses pending collection from sales or receipt of an intermediate credit bank loan. The Act says to promote "effective merchandising of agricultural commodities and food products thereof" which covers practically any operating purpose.

All loans must be safe, but the collateral embraces a wide range—liens on real estate, equipment, inventories, commodities, accounts receivable, stock or other evidence of ownership of subsidiary corporations, and notes. This type of loan is made for the length of time that

good business practice appears to require. Generally repayment of capital loans is required at the end of the current marketing season.

Facility loans are available for four purposes—to buy, to build, to lease, or to refinance physical property required by cooperatives for preparing, handling, storing, processing, or merchandising agricultural commodities or their products. These loans usually are secured by mortgages on the property itself. Sometimes the banks require additional security. A loan of this class cannot exceed 60 per cent of the value of the facilities.

It is a policy of the banks to make facility loans for periods not exceeding ten years. The time, however, is determined by the applicant's volume of business, earnings, and other factors that affect ability to repay. A part of the principal must be paid off each year or oftener, according to the terms agreed on by the bank and the borrower at the time the loan is made. Wherever practicable, provision for these payments is made by setting aside a retain on each unit of commodity handled. Thus the loans are self-liquidating.

Under the provisions of the Farm Credit Act, the interest rate is set by the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, as nearly as practicable, at the rate prevailing on mortgage loans made to members of national farm loan associations at the time the loan is made. The rate, however, cannot be less than 3 per cent or more than 6 per cent. At present the rate for the short term "effective merchandising" loans is 3 per cent—the minimum allowed—and for the "physical facility" loans 4½ per cent. Early this year the rate on "effective merchandising" loans was 4 per cent, but two reductions have been possible, bring-

ing it down to the minimum of 3 per cent, which makes this type of money very cheap.

For the first time through federally sponsored credit facilities, loans are available to those buying cooperatives that purchase feed, fertilizer, seed, and other farm supplies for their patrons as well as those that market their members' products. These buying cooperatives do more than one tenth of the cooperative business in this country. Their successful operation requires the holding of considerable inventories of farm supplies, thereby necessitating a fairly large capital structure.

Although purchasing associations may borrow for "effective merchandising," they are not eligible under the Farm Credit Act for "physical facility" loans, which are restricted to the marketing cooperatives.

To be eligible to borrow from any bank for cooperatives, an association must be either:

1. An association in which farmers act together in collectively processing, preparing for market, handling, or marketing the farm products of the members, or

2. An association in which farmers act together in collectively purchasing, testing, grading, or processing their farm supplies.

It is also provided by the Farm Credit Act that a cooperative must be operated for the mutual benefit of its members and must not handle products or supplies for non-members in an amount greater than it handles for members. In order that a cooperative be considered as operating for their mutual benefit, the voting stock of a capital stock cooperative must be held by producer members or associations of producers.

A further requirement is that the cooperative must either limit its dividends on capital stock or membership capital to 8 per cent a year, or else provide that no member may have more than one vote in the affairs of the association.

It is the policy of the banks for

cooperatives not to make loans to any cooperative that requires its members to belong to any general farm organization that in itself is not a cooperative.

The purpose of the Farm Credit Administration is to help cooperatives get out of debt rather than encourage them to get into debt. Every loan, therefore, must be properly secured. Ability to repay is essential. This is determined by certain qualifications, the most important of which can be summed up as follows:

The cooperative should be organized with its charter, by-laws, and various contracts all drawn to permit effective operation. Any association operating under a state cooperative statute will have no difficulty complying with this qualification.

Its volume of business should be sufficient to permit operating efficiently at low cost.

Its board of directors should have very definitely in mind the responsibilities and opportunities involved in cooperative effort and should exercise control over the cooperative's activities.

It must have capable, honest, experienced management, able to operate the business efficiently.

It must have a sound accounting procedure and financial policy, including provisions for reserves and budgeting of operations. Purchasing associations preferably should do a cash business. In any event not more than 30 days' sales should be allowed outstanding in accounts receivable.

Obviously the first function of a credit institution is the granting of credit and the safeguarding of its outstanding loans. This means that while it is fundamental that only safe and sound loans be made, it is of equal if not greater importance to direct all loans into their most effective use in order to achieve the purpose for which the loans are granted. That is to say, we have attempted to place unusual emphasis upon the effective use of money and have directed the efforts

of the lending institutions, as they have perfected their relations with borrowers, to stress this factor rather than that of mere safety or a temporary contribution to the immediate needs of cooperatives.

The banks for cooperatives will continue to develop the highest type of loan function in serving the needs of active operating cooperatives. But they do not have funds with which to organize new associations, nor can they lend money from their capital to be used for general educational purposes to promote the cooperative movement. In other words, the government is not in the business of organizing local groups of people that they may become borrowers of government money. These banks, however, are essential credit agencies with available capital to be lent at reasonable rates of interest under assurances that the money will be repaid and under terms and conditions that we trust will prove advantageous to their borrowers.

The district banks for cooperatives have been in operation approximately nine months. The Central Bank for Cooperatives at Washington has been in operation slightly more than a year. Up to September 14 the regional banks had made commitments totaling approximately \$19,288,000, involving some 420 loans, while the Central Bank for Cooperatives during its first year ending September 12 approved 57 applications for loans aggregating \$59,908,000, of which \$42,209,000 was advanced in actual cash.

When it is remembered that the Farm Board at the peak of its operations made loans to not to exceed 150 cooperative associations and the present credit agencies are serving 450, it is realized that local cooperatives are now giving particular attention to ways of meeting their credit needs. It is expected that the bulk of the cooperative financing will be done by the district banks and the maximum service will be rendered to the local community cooperative enterprises.

Around the Range Country

THE notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of November.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

WYOMING

The state apparently faces a most serious situation because of the drouth, excepting possibly the extreme southwestern portion. The total water storage was the least ever known. Much of the range in central and southwestern counties is devoid of forage and the hay crop is exceptionally small. The Platte River Valley, the Big Horn Basin, and Powder River country have fared a little better. Catch crops did better in some sections, but as a rule there has been too little water. The greater part of the winter grain that came up early, has died for want of moisture. Livestock are thin, excepting where on full feed.

Badwater

The weather has been fine, but the feed is very short in this section. We have had a little snow lately, but the winter range will not give us much in the way of forage this year. Alfalfa hay is quoted at \$10 to \$12 a ton in the stack, and very scarce at that.

Breeding operations will be about 10 per cent under those of last year; the ewes range from ones to fives in age, but there are very few fives.

I think there are about twice as

many coyotes this year as last; during the last month they have caught 52 on my range.

The regular wage for herders and camp tenders is \$40 a month.

Badwater Sheep Co.

MONTANA

Seasonal or somewhat above normal temperatures prevailed, more especially over the eastern portion. Very little snow occurred, but a few scattered showers did some good. Livestock have thus shown a little improvement in places but generally more moisture is necessary. Fall grains are poor east of the Divide. Sheep and cattle are in fair to good condition west of the Divide, but east of the Divide they are holding up only in feed yards. Relief shipments continue generally. Grasses and other feeds made very poor growth this fall because of dry subsoils, and insufficient recent moisture.



In the High Cascades.

Cameron

The range is fair (November 28), as we have had some light warm snows. The feed is much shorter though than average. Alfalfa hay is \$10 a ton in the stack.

Yearling crossbred ewes have been changing hands at \$5 a head, fine wools making \$6. Breeding bands are about 8 or 10 per cent below the size of last year's; most of them are from three to six years in age and few ewe lambs were kept for replacements this year.

There have been fewer trappers here the last two years and coyotes have increased.

Herders and camp tenders are getting \$40 a month.

Wm. K. Armitage.

Devon

The weather is warm, just like summer (November 28). There is plenty of hay and grain to take care

of this county; also plenty of wheat, oats and barley. The winter range, however, is very poor. There we will have to depend mostly on sage for forage. Baled hay is \$10 to \$13 a ton, f. o. b. cars.

I think about the same number of ewes will be bred this fall as in the previous year.

Coyotes do not give us much trouble as there are plenty of hunters running them down with cars. They are kept down because the hunters dig out the pups.

Herders are getting \$40 a month and camp tenders, \$30.

L. M. Appley.

IDAHO

Temperatures have been comparatively warm nearly the entire month, being very favorable for livestock; but near the end of the month colder weather caused some shrinkages, and an increased amount of feeding. Moisture came in the form of rain most of the month, though snow was spread over some of the desert areas late in the month. Pastures furnished a considerable amount of feed, and fall wheat made splendid growth in most places. Livestock are consequently doing well in many areas. The principal autumn growth of pastures was during this month, because of the belated rains.

Soda Springs

November 28 finds all flocks from this country located, or on the way, to winter ranges or hay stacks; very few sheep are wintered here.

After months of dry, hot weather—the worst drouth ever known here—we have been favored with a wonderful fall. There have been frequent rains and light snows, and all the moisture has been absorbed by a parched soil, without run-off. We now have from six inches, here at Soda Springs, to one to two feet of wet snow higher up. Coming before the ground froze, this moisture gives assurance of fine feed next spring, as soon as the snow goes off, as well as the resuscitation of dried-up springs and wells.

Sheepmen were under the necessity of renting fields early this fall—expensive for them but a help to the farmers. Grain crops were unusually good—also prices, so considerable cash has come into this community. Hay prices here and near by are from \$8 to \$10 a ton.

Some wool is still held in the warehouse here.

Wages for herders range from \$40 to \$50 a month.

A. J. Knollin.

Hagerman

The weather has really been too good for feed conditions; the range is very short and water scarce (November 25). The winter range will be very poor.

Alfalfa hay in the stack is quoted at \$10 here in Hagerman. Around Wendell and Jerome it was \$8.50, but can now be bought for \$7 there.

My ewes average about three years in age, but I do not know about other bands of this section. I know that considerably fewer ewe lambs were retained this fall, and also that breeding ewes are short by 10 per cent of last year's number. Some choice crossbred yearling ewes have recently changed hands at \$7 a head.

C. W. Abbott.

WASHINGTON

Mild weather prevailed, with frequent showers generally, which were somewhat heavier and more frequent in the western portion. Pastures and winter wheat are making good growth, and livestock are reported in good condition. More sunshine would have improved pastures and grains, and sunshine is still needed, over the western portion. Some western fields have been too wet to plow or seed.

Hover

Since the rains began about October 20, the grass has been growing, and some of our ranges are the best they have been in many years past at this season.

Most of the wool growers in this

state are supplied with sufficient hay and grain to tide them over a severe winter. Yearling ewes have sold at from \$6 to \$7 a head and ewe lambs have cost the purchasers here \$4.50 to \$5.50 f. o. b. the home range. However, there has not been so much buying and selling this fall as we had last year.

Coyotes are more numerous due to lack of funds to employ hunters.

The slump in wool and lamb prices last summer took all the enthusiasm out of the Washington wool growers. Many of us do not know where we are going, but we are on the way.

J. R. Ayers.

Nespelem

We have had plenty of rain and the grass is good. There is also a good supply of old grass on the range.

I do not know of any yearling ewes for sale in this part of the country, but most of the white-faced ewe lambs are being held. The feeder lambs went at 4½ cents a pound. The government did not buy any aged ewes in this state, so we are selling our old ewes for what we can get.

William Bell.

Roosevelt

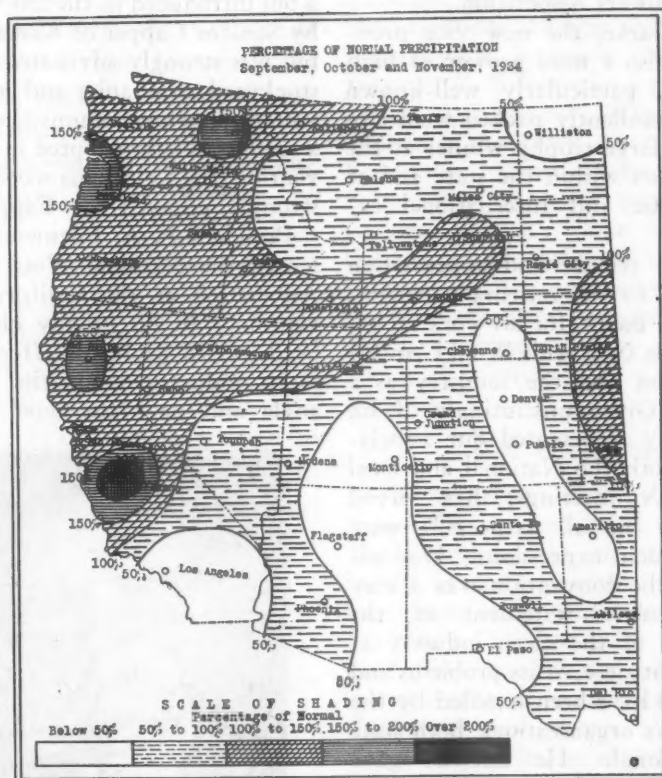
Things look pretty good here now (November 20) so far as feed conditions go. We have had plenty of rain to start up the grass and it is good now; also there is a good lot of dry grass.

Not many yearling ewes have been offered for sale, although earlier purchases were made by California buyers. Fine-wools have gone at \$6.50 and crossbreds at \$7 a head. Most of the ewes are young in the bands of this district, but, of course, there are some old ones, as they are hard to move. Washington was not included in the dry belt, so that avenue of sale was not open to us. A good many more ewe lambs have been kept for stock purposes than heretofore; about 20 per cent more, I should judge. The feeder lambs were taken at from 4 to 4½ cents a pound.

J. A. Berney.

(Continued to page 27)

The Autumn Moisture Record



MOISTURE conditions during the past three months were a little more favorable than for some time, over about two fifths of the western range states as shown on the accompanying map and in the tables herewith, precipitation being appreciably above normal. The excesses of the summer months were largely inconsequential, but the autumn and early winter excesses occurred over a much more important area and are of much greater moment to stockmen. This area includes Washington, Oregon, and most of California, Nevada, and Idaho, and small parts of Montana, Wyoming, and Utah. Exceptionally dry conditions continue over southern Utah, much of Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of

northern Texas, and most of eastern Colorado and Wyoming, where the autumn precipitation has averaged less than half the normal.

The moisture excesses in the past three months as a whole occurred chiefly in October and November, only, in most of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, and northern Utah; but only November brought excesses to Colorado, parts of Utah, to Idaho, and parts of Texas and New Mexico, though not enough to offset the earlier deficiencies. All three months just passed showed deficiencies in Arizona and parts of Montana, Wyoming, and Utah. Unfortunately most of this recent moisture has come too late to produce new forage in important amounts, and thus does not do a great deal of good right now.

Precipitation on Western Livestock Ranges During September, October and November, 1934, With Departures from Normal, Three Months, and for Six Months (In Inches)

	Normal 3-Months' Precipitation	Actual 3-Months' Precipitation	Excess (+) or Deficiency (-) 3 Months	Excess (+) or Deficiency (-) 6 Months
Washington—				
Seattle	9.64	12.51	+2.87	+1.45
Spokane	4.16	6.44	+2.28	+0.71
Walla Walla	4.50	4.55	+0.05	-0.46
Oregon—				
Portland	11.20	17.09	+5.89	+4.52
Pendleton	3.55	3.22	-0.33	-0.42
Baker City	2.70	2.83	+0.13	+0.50
Roseburg	8.54	12.08	+3.54	+3.37
California—				
Red Bluff	7.26	11.35	+4.09	+3.88
San Francisco	3.92	4.77	+0.85	+1.33
Fresno	1.71	3.97	+2.26	+2.21
Los Angeles	2.05	5.23	+3.18	+3.49
Nevada—				
Winnemucca	1.71	2.40	+0.69	+0.58
Reno	1.26	1.60	+0.34	+0.39
Tonopah	1.22	1.14	-0.08	-0.73
Arizona—				
Phoenix	1.92	1.29	-0.63	-1.51
Flagstaff	4.31	0.78	-3.53	-3.39
New Mexico—				
Santa Fe	3.31	3.04	-0.27	-1.14
Roswell	4.38	2.27	-2.11	-5.79
Texas—				
Amarillo	4.88	2.30	-2.59	-7.70
Abilene	6.55	3.49	-3.06	-9.28
Del Rio	6.04	5.69	-0.35	-4.42
El Paso	2.55	0.82	-1.73	-5.20
San Angelo	6.03	5.08	-0.95	-4.37
Montana—				
Helena	2.88	1.99	-0.89	-2.02
Kalispell	3.65	3.94	+0.29	-0.44
Havre	2.57	2.54	-0.03	-1.67
Miles City	2.51	1.45	-1.06	-4.59
Williston, N. D.	2.53	1.22	-1.31	-5.04
Idaho—				
Boise	3.05	3.08	+0.03	+0.41
Pocatello	2.86	3.20	+0.34	-0.50
Utah—				
Salt Lake	3.77	4.77	+1.00	+1.35
Fillmore	3.39	1.87	-1.52	-3.21
Modena	2.11	1.55	-0.56	-0.50
Castle Dale	2.26	0.38	-1.88	-3.78
Monticello	4.92	2.17	-2.75	-5.42
Wyoming—				
Yellowstone	3.95	2.44	-1.51	-0.82
Sheridan	2.97	3.64	+0.67	-1.60
Lander	2.88	3.10	+0.22	+0.47
Cheyenne	2.68	0.82	-1.86	-2.32
Rapid City, S. D.	2.63	2.44	-0.19	-3.14
North Platte, Neb.	2.89	3.97	+1.08	-0.30
Colorado—				
Denver	2.59	1.11	-1.48	-4.52
Pueblo	1.77	0.58	-1.19	-3.92
Grand Junction	2.44	1.79	-0.65	-0.99
Dodge City, Kan.	3.93	4.53	+0.60	-5.50

The California Convention



S. P. Arbios, the New President of the California Wool Growers Association

S. P. ARBIOS of Stockton, Calif., was elected president of the California Wool Growers Association at the close of the regular annual convention in San Francisco, (November 22-23). Mr. Arbios succeeds W. Hugh Baber, superintendent of the Llano Seco Ranch at Chico, who has been at the head of California Association affairs for the past three years. Frank C. Clarke of Laytonville is the newly elected vice president of the association, and W. P. Wing continues as secretary.

The new president of the California Association is not only a sheepman himself, but belongs to a family of sheep raisers. His father was well known in the business prior to his death and at present the three sons, S. P., Joe, and P. L., are all large operators in the San Joaquin Valley. Likewise they are all active in organization work. S. P. Arbios was president of the Central California Wool Growers Association for several years and has been on the board of directors of the state association for twelve years; P. L. Arbios has just recently been elected

president of the San Joaquin Valley Wool Growers Association.

Mr. Clarke, the new vice president, is also a wool grower of high standing, particularly well-known for his excellently packed wool clip and as a large trophy winner at the wool shows within the state and at the Pacific and International exhibits.

Sincere tribute and appreciation was paid to the retiring president, W. Hugh Baber, for his work on behalf of the California Wool Growers Association and the industry as a whole. "Given unstintingly of his time; ably represented our association at both the National and local sheepmen's meetings; has served faithfully in all respects," were among such expressions. His address to the convention was a very comprehensive statement of the condition of the sheep industry at the present time, of its problems and how they have been handled by the sheepmen's organizations, both state and national. He likewise gave constructive suggestions for future policies of the organization.

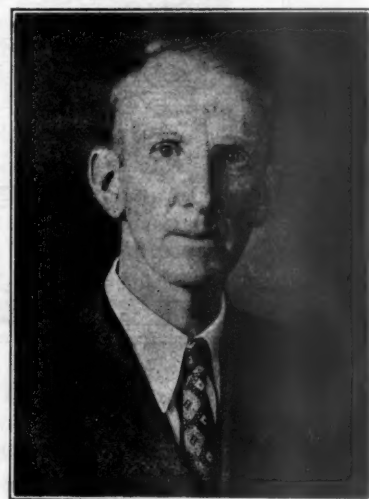
Particularly emphatic was the stand taken by Mr. Baber in connection with the "direct marketing" question. He said:

"We believe every legitimate method of marketing our lambs is necessary in order to market our spring lamb crop satisfactorily. We have a large surplus in production ready for market in a few weeks' time. Curtailing any existing facility will prove detrimental to the producers' best interest. We market many of our lambs through the central markets—we have many friends among the stockyard and commission firms—we market many of our lambs f.o.b. shipping point; we have many friends among the packers. We do not want to be forced to market our lambs either one way or the other. We want to continue to market our lambs, how, when, where and to whom we choose, leaving it to our choice as to which marketing method to select.

Mr. Dan Hildebrand of Nebraska spoke at length upon this question of direct marketing, as proposed to

be handled under the provisions of a bill introduced in the last Congress by Senator Capper of Kansas, which bill was strongly advocated by most stockyard companies and by representatives of the commission men. In a resolution later adopted in the convention, the California wool growers strongly opposed the Capper bill.

President F. A. Ellenwood represented the National Wool Growers Association at the California convention. In his usually clear style he discussed problems affecting the sheep industry from the national angle and gave the wool growers



Frank C. Clarke, Vice President of the California Association

material for their individual consideration in the shaping of future policies of the sheepmen's organization.

Another very excellent address was that made by Paul Smith, vice president of Swift and Company, Chicago. His interpretation of lamb market conditions and the outlook was considered one of the high lights of the convention. Davenport Phelps reviewed the lamb consumption activities of the National Live Stock and Meat Board on the Pacific Coast, and reports of the Swift packing plant tour were given by Marvin Deter of Willows, and S. P.

Arbios, who were members of the late fall trip conducted by the Swift Company.

The principal talk on wool matters was made by Prof. J. F. Wilson, wool specialist of the College of Agriculture of the University of California. His subject was: "Wool; Its Relation to the Sheepman's Pocketbook—Means of Increasing the Average Fleece Weight of Sheep."

Financial matters were handled by Willard D. Ellis, agent of the Farm Credit Administration, with headquarters at Oakland, Calif. The effectiveness of the California Produce Merchants Act in relation to lambs and wool was discussed by C. J. Carey, chief, Division of Market Enforcement, California State Department of Agriculture.

The dinner-dance was a very enjoyable affair, and there was also a luncheon on the second day of the convention at which the Commonwealth Club of California was the host. But probably the most interesting feature of the convention was the display of woolen articles, hand woven by the students of the Swedish Applied Arts of San Francisco. This guild was started in 1922 and has developed such an interest in hand weaving that the manufacture of looms has become a necessary part of the business. The operation of these looms and spinning wheels was demonstrated by students of the school, who were dressed in Swedish costume. Mrs. Valborg Gravander is head of the Swedish Applied Arts and much of its success must be laid to her very charming personality.

The National Live Stock and Meat Board also had a very instructive exhibit of meats at the convention hall.

Resolutions

The chairmen of the California convention committees were: Resolutions, E. C. Dozier; Ram Sale, John Spencer, acting for G. C. Carter; Grazing, George M. Smith; Legislative, R. R. Ingels; Credits and Finance, A. T. Spencer; Lamb Marketing, S. P. Arbios; Wool, Lee B. Williams; Predatory Animal, L. A. Robertson; Sheep Disease, B. B. Foster; Traffic and Transportation, Kenneth Sexton. Their reports to the convention embraced the major activities of the association locally and also stated the position of California wool growers on affairs in which the industry as a whole is interested.

Lamb Marketing

The opposition of the California Association to any legislation that would prohibit the direct marketing of livestock as embodied in the lamb marketing committee report has been referred to above. This report also included the same statement as was made last year by the California wool growers in connection with Agricultural Adjustment Administration; namely, that they were willing to cooperate. Endorsement of the work of the National Live Stock and Meat Board was given, with the recommendation that the 25-cent-per-car assessment be collected on all shipments of lambs, whether marketed direct or through the stock yards.

Wool Affairs

The wool educational campaign that has been under consideration by the National Wool Trade and Wool Manufacturers associations during the past year received the sanction of the California Association. The National Wool Growers Association was asked to participate in the campaign and to take steps immediately to collect an assessment of ten cents a bag on all wool produced to make available the producers' share of the campaign expense.

On shearing rates, the California people took the definite stand that it was a matter to be handled either by the individual sheepman or by different localities.

The uniform tag discount now being applied on California wools was berated by resolution and the Federal Trade Commission is to be asked to investigate "possible and probable collusion between the San Francisco Wool Trade Association and the National Wool Trade Association." Due to the wide variation in quality and condition of the California clip, it is held that a uniform tag discount is "ridiculous." The convention also went on record as favoring the transfer of the Code of Fair Trade Practices for the wool industry from the N. R. A. back to the A. A. A.

The government was urged to keep the stocks of pulled wools in its possession as a result of the sheep-buying program out of the market until more favorable conditions prevail.

Grazing Matters

The transfer of the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior was recommended by resolution, and because of the depletion of the western ranges by drouth, it was urged that the "continued use by stockmen of the National Forest grazing lands be permitted indefinitely."

California sheepmen also asked by resolution:

That the President make a definite statement that the tariffs on wool, lambs, lamb carcasses, and woolen clothing would not be lowered by any reciprocal trade agreement; that the tariff upon pelts and hides be increased; that present taxes on trucks run by gasoline be not increased, but that a tax equivalent to the tax on gasoline be assessed against fuels other than gasoline now used in the operation of some trucks on the highway; that nothing be done to interfere with the transportation of livestock by trucks; that the Biological Survey and the California State Department of Agriculture make available for predatory animal control work a sum of money equal to that supplied for this work before the recent cuts in such appropriations were made.

Iodized Salt for Sheep

THE following statement on the preparation and use of iodized salt was made by Dr. Hadleigh Marsh, veterinary pathologist of the Montana Experiment Station at Bozeman, and appeared in the News Letter issued by the Montana Wool Growers Association on November 15, 1934:

It is necessary that the feed and water taken by livestock contain a certain small amount of iodine for the proper development of the young animals. There are many areas in Montana where there is a shortage of iodine, particularly in the eastern part of the state. At times there have been heavy losses of lambs due to a deficiency of iodine in the feed and water of the ewes. In these cases the lambs are born weak or dead, frequently without hair, and with enlarged thyroid glands, causing the condition we know as goiter. The discovery that these losses were due to iodine deficiency was made sixteen years ago by Dr. Welch, of the Montana Experiment Station, who determined by experimental work that goiter in lambs could be definitely prevented by feeding iodized salt to the ewes during the period of pregnancy. It is not necessary to use iodized salt during the summer, but in goiter districts, it must be fed during the entire period from breeding to lambing. The use of iodized salt constitutes perfect insurance against lamb losses from this cause, and the additional expense is so slight that it would seem to be good business to use iodized salt for breeding ewes even though no losses from goiter have as yet occurred.

The amount of iodine necessary to correct the deficiency is very small. We have found by experience with a large number of sheep over a period of years that the addition of .02 per cent of potassium iodide to the salt is sufficient to prevent goiter. There is no evidence that there is any advantage in feeding larger amounts of iodine to sheep, and there is some evidence that an excess of iodine may be harmful.

Iodized stock salt can be bought as such, or it can be prepared by the sheep owner. If bought as iodized salt, it is better to use sacked salt rather than block salt. This is due to the fact that iodine is rapidly lost from the surface of blocks when exposed to the weather, while sacked salt can be put out frequently in small quantities. The supply of iodized salt should be stored where it is protected from sun and rain. If the iodized salt is prepared by the sheep owner, potassium iodide is added to stock salt at the rate of 1 ounce to each 300 pounds of salt. This is too small an amount to mix directly with the stock salt, and therefore the potassium iodide is first thoroughly

mixed with a small quantity of fine salt (1 pound to 1 ounce of iodide), and this small quantity is thoroughly mixed with the stock salt with a shovel. Some charcoal may be added to the small quantity of fine salt, as the gray color will help in making a perfect mixture with the stock salt.

Grazing Lands and F. C. A. Loans

THE question of giving owners of grazing lands access to Federal Land Bank loans still is under study by the Federal Farm Credit Administration.

The statement of Governor W. I. Myers which was sent to the last convention of the National Wool Growers Association dealt with the question and gave assurance that at least some classes of land used only for grazing might be made eligible to federal loans.

In inviting Governor Myers to the 1935 convention at Phoenix, the association suggested that he might go further on the question of loans upon grazing land. In writing

that he would be compelled to send some one else to represent him at the Phoenix convention, Governor Myers said:

It is a matter of sincere regret to me that I could not accept your invitation to be with you at Phoenix during the latter part of January. I am keenly interested in the livestock industry and will continue to do everything possible to provide, through the Farm Credit Administration, a sympathetic and businesslike credit system for this important agricultural industry. * * *

During the past few days, I have been in frequent conferences with officials of the Department of the Interior and of the Department of Agriculture concerning a co-ordination of our policies that will permit us to make mortgage loans on deeded lands used in conjunction with forest range or public domain. While no definite announcement can be made, I feel very much encouraged that we will be able to render a greater service to the industry through long-time financing than has been possible in the past. While this will not greatly increase the credit that can be extended to individual producers, I think it will be an important constructive step in placing a part of their credit upon a longer term basis where it can be handled more satisfactorily and liquidated in an orderly fashion over a term of perhaps 15 or 20 years.

Sheep Purchases Under the Drouth Relief Program

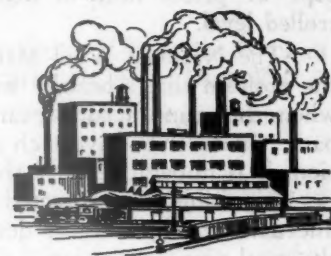
THE following table summarizes the purchase of ewes under the federal drouth-relief program up to and including December 1, as tabulated by the Denver office of the Emergency Drouth Service.

Summary of Ewe Purchases to December 1, 1934

STATE	SHEEP AND GOATS (Angora)		SHEEP (Ewes)		
	Number of Farms Selling	Total Sheep and Goats These Farms- Ranches	Total Ewes Over 1 Year These Farms- Ranches	Total Ewes Purchased	Total Ewes Condemned
Arizona	82	179,950	64,960	6,816	2,818
California	159	336,050	248,278	22,867	6,631
Colorado	1,222	1,947,526	1,305,502	199,693	100,492
Idaho	839	1,426,138	1,155,580	139,021	62,649
Iowa	120	16,262	10,332	1,766	49
Kansas	122	61,191	35,727	9,693	1,714
Minnesota	494	115,624	25,049	6,544	168
Missouri	589	49,947	31,359	7,547	62
Montana	2,239	2,626,110	1,954,104	498,895	350,931
Nebraska	237	123,194	69,162	24,960	3,692
Nevada	286	1,021,772	732,684	94,611	8,057
New Mexico	1,466	2,493,104	1,528,412	273,426	157,988
North Dakota	2,697	374,642	282,740	83,475	22,306
Oklahoma	21	8,590	5,689	2,682	2,682
Oregon	558	1,210,051	876,253	166,369	98,458
South Dakota	2,350	760,069	590,019	152,222	74,506
Texas	9,814	8,113,446	4,190,810	1,079,935	811,378
Utah	1,999	2,167,144	1,540,403	205,215	121,831
Wyoming	1,678	4,438,506	2,891,770	585,434	353,388
TOTALS	26,972	27,460,726	17,538,833	3,561,171	2,179,800

The National Wool Marketing Corporation

News Bulletin



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GROWER OWNED AND OPERATED

WOOL demand continues fairly active at firm levels nor has the market lost any of its recently acquired momentum. Manufacturers and top makers, operating more freely, are taking out in the aggregate a considerable volume of wool. At no time this year has the call for wool been so extensive and dealers are hoping that the prevailing wave of mill purchasing will flow right over into the early part of 1935.

This wider distribution of wool is very agreeable to leading houses and while the total volume of sales for November loomed large compared with other months of the year, yet as related to the supplies available it constitutes only a small percentage.

Advancing prices and increasing orders for goods are, however, pushing forward a healthy movement in wool manufacturing. Worsted fabrics, which are constructed in the main from virgin wool, are headed for their normal place in the goods market, superseding to an increasing degree the manipulated fabrics of recent seasons. Orders from clothiers for requirements several months ahead are now being reflected in the buying and consumption of wool as well as in mill operations. Manufacturers taking orders on fabrics have to cover on the raw material at prices indicating their belief in the stability of wool.

Mill interest in wools, following quickly the more active market at higher prices for woolen and worsted fabrics, has created a much better sentiment. No general expectation holds that an excessive volume of purchasing will be done between now and the end of the year, nevertheless it is believed that a distinct change for the better has taken place and that a broader market is in the making for both woolen and worsted wools. The free-wool group no longer offers a menace to controlled wool prices. From all appearances it can only be a question of a very short time when domestic wool prices are found to be based upon a unified level of values.

Attempts for weeks to break the price of wool have met no success. Houses handling government wool have

held values firm on an expected turn for the better, which apparently has now materialized. That the mills have all along been low in supplies is shown by the short time elapsing between an improved goods situation and renewed buying of the raw material. Encouraging also is the fact that mill buying is no longer confined so exclusively to the cheaper lines of territory original bag wool. If the mills can sell their goods at current wool value, there is reason to expect that the purchasing of combing grades by worsted manufacturers will become a regular feature. Such mill buying, however, is likely to be kept close to actual mill need. Manufacturers, moreover, may endeavor to come to the end of the year with as light wool inventories as possible.

The continuation of a good market for wool is anticipated throughout December despite the fact that attention to year-end inventories usually retards purchasing as well as the certainty that the foreign markets will open 1935 with large available supplies. Stocks of domestic unsold wool are unquestionably in large volume, but this current oversupply is more apparent than real and is to be ascribed to the abnormal distribution of the raw material. Heavy stocks now held by dealers are offset to a considerable degree by small supplies of the raw materials in mill warehouses as well as depleted stocks of tops, yarns and fabrics.

Conservative members of the wool trade are, however, unlikely to be influenced toward undue optimism by the better conditions in wool and manufacturing which have arisen almost over night. They are inclined to take a reasonable view of the outlook for domestic wool and are chary about predicting higher prices for the raw material. Looking beyond the immediate present, large wool buying will depend to a very considerable degree on expansion in general business and a larger return of the unemployed to profitable labor under private enterprise. It seems somewhat unlikely that any real advance in wool prices will be seen

for some time to come. Any large volume of domestic wool seems unlikely to be taken by manufacturers except at prices near or slightly under current controlled level.

The National Wool Marketing Corporation takes the position that a healthy wool market can exist only when the manufacturers can operate on a profitable basis. In order to have such a mutually desirable situation, it is imperative that the raw material should, so far as possible, be protected from unwarranted price fluctuations which inject destructive uncertainty into the wool textile situation.

The domestic market, it would seem, should be preserved for the American wool growers by the judicious pricing of domestic wool to a level that would restrict to a minimum the import of foreign wool competitive with that of domestic growth. To price domestic wool too high above the import parity would merely invite purchasing abroad and so lead to a possibly unsalable accumulation of our native grown staple.

The wool trade for the next few weeks may be expected to pay particular attention to the foreign wool situation. It is hardly open to doubt that world supplies of wool will bulk very much larger than at the beginning of 1934. At the closing series for the year of London wool auctions wool owners followed the policy of meeting the market, as the supplies of wool in London warehouses at the beginning of November were much larger than a year ago.

Wool growers of South Africa, a merino producing country, find themselves in a very unsatisfactory position and have appealed for help to their government. Arrangements have recently been consummated whereby it will be possible for them to obtain advances on wool, from commercial banks, such advances being guaranteed by the government. The absence of Germany as a buyer has been an important factor, not only in this market but in Australia. Germany under normal conditions produces about 30,000,000 pounds of wool and imports 450,000,000 pounds. Attempts are now being made to arrange for German buying in the Cape market somewhat on the barter principle. Meanwhile the Durban sales have been suspended. Unsold wool is in large accumulation and prices at which it might be moved are entirely unsatisfactory to the growers. The average price of the wool exported in September was 17 cents, as compared with 22 cents in August and 25 cents in July.

At the several Australian wool centers many growers are reluctant to accept ruling rates and the limited quantity of wool made available for marketing, compared with a season of normal buying, has caused doubts as to the real significance of prices paid at recent auctions. A spread of Australian sales over a longer period than usual is proving helpful but there are no signs visible to encourage the hope that a marked

rise in wool values is pending, declares an Australian authority. The perplexities of international commerce have increased rather than diminished. So far as the Australian trade is concerned the value of Germany's trade, direct and indirect, in Australian wool has been of greater volume than that of Japan.

Compared with Australian auctions of last season, current prices are strikingly low, offering no encouragement to growers to meet the market freely. The wool market is no different from any other market in that the price is dependent upon the forces of supply and demand. The average price for Australian greasy wool sold this season is about 12 per cent below the average for the last three seasons.

The South American and New Zealand seasons have now opened. Exports of wool from Argentina were greatly reduced as compared with the previous season and the carryover into this new season is correspondingly large, estimated unofficially at about 44,000,000 pounds. Opening sales at Auckland, New Zealand, were disappointing. Prices offered there, and made recently in London, are regarded unfavorably by New Zealand growers and the amount of wool to be offered between now and the end of the year will be greatly restricted. The new clip will be about 7,000,000 pounds larger than the previous season, but the carryover is much smaller. Total supplies are estimated about 6 per cent below the 379,000,000 pounds of the previous season.

The course of domestic wool prices throughout the year bears every evidence of the orderly merchandising policy for the raw material prescribed by the Farm Credit Administration and supervised by the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee. This applies more particularly to territory and similar wools as fleece wools very generally were not included in the government setup. At the beginning of August a downward revision of 10 per cent was made in controlled wool prices to meet conditions in the foreign situation, which reduction lowered the price level below that of August, 1933, at which time wool buying was at its height, 20,000,000 pounds being sold in Boston alone at an advance of 5 per cent.

Prices on territory and similar wools during the first quarter of this year were in practical equilibrium at the high point of the recovery. Softness developed in the market in April, particularly in fleece wool, but the action of the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee in naming a nominal price level on territories prevented any marked decline in this wool. Average selling prices on Montana and similar graded territory group, clean basis, are shown herewith:

First Quarter, 1934	79.2 cents
Second Quarter, 1934	76.2 "
Third Quarter, 1934	70.6 "
November, 1934	67.8 "
November, 1933	77.0 "

With the Women's Auxiliaries

Greetings,

A Joyous Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year! This is my wish to each and every one.

May the Spirit of the Divine Shepherd penetrate and permeate each and all, bringing smiles to the lips and tenderness in the hearts. And at the beginning of the New Year as each must go his way may there be renewed determination to make the year nineteen hundred thirty-five exceed in right-use-ness and in increased endeavor, with new enthusiasm to bring in the full measure of prosperity.

Space in The National Wool Grower has been given us as the medium through which we speak to each other during the months between conventions. So let me urge you to read this page. Do not merely look it over, but read it.

January 29-31 are the dates set for the next convention. The convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. Begin now to make your plans to be present. I anticipate the pleasure of meeting you there at that time.

GRACE T. STEWART,
President, National Auxiliary

Chapter Activities

THE Ladies' Auxiliary to the Utah State Wool Growers will hold its annual convention in Salt Lake City on January 24 and 25, 1935. There will be an excellent program and several social features. All members and visiting ladies are urged to attend.

Mrs. J. R. Eliason, President.

THE Umatilla County Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to the Oregon Wool Growers Association met at the Library Club Room in Pendleton on November 10, with Mrs. Fred Falconer, president, conducting. Several handmade woolen articles, consisting of bags, scarfs, etc., were displayed. After the business meeting, refreshments were served. There were eleven members and four visitors present. The next meeting will be held on December 8.

Mrs. T. G. Elliott, Secretary.

THE Baker County Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to the Oregon Wool Growers Association met on November 7, in Keating, at the home of the county president, Mrs. Ira Stagg, who presided. It has been the custom of this chapter to give dances in February and June to raise money and have a display at the county fair. Plans were made at our meeting on the 7th to give a dance on November 23, to increase our treasury fund. Seventeen members and three visitors were present at our meeting and one new member was enrolled.

The regular meeting day is the first Wednesday of each month. The

Material for this page should be sent to Mrs. Ella I. Livingston, National Press Correspondent, 241 East South Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Charles Duby on December 8.

Mrs. Chas. Lee, Secretary.

THE Grant County Chapter of the Oregon Wool Growers Association held a benefit card party at the Fraternal Hall in Canyon City on November 26. Thirty-nine tables were played. Mrs. Anna Keerins was chairman of the arrangement committee. There will be no business meeting in November and the annual luncheon scheduled for November 24 was postponed to December 8.

Mrs. Vera Gay, Secretary.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Salt Lake Chapter of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Utah State Wool Growers Association was held at the Belvedere Lounge, Monday, November 12, 1934. Community singing was led by Mrs. O. R. Ivory, with Mrs. Lilac Bush at the piano. A talk on public land legislation with particular reference to the Taylor Grazing Act was given by Mr. F. R. Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers Association. Discussion followed.

A report of the work of the Salt Lake Council of Women was made by Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent, and parliamentary drill was led by Mrs. O. E. McGahen.

A quartette composed of Mrs. Crissie Dixon, Mrs. Dorothy Rosebraugh, Mrs. Eliza Bringham, and Mrs. Lael Fuller, accompanied by Mrs. Virginia Freber, furnished the music.

Hostesses for the day were Mrs. O. R. Ivory, Mrs. Alexander Chrystal, Mrs. F. R. Marshall, and Mrs. J. H. Manderfield.

MRS. J. R. Eliason, president, and Mrs. Henry Moss, secretary of the Utah State Wool Growers Auxiliary, both of Salt Lake City, or-

ganized an auxiliary chapter for Sevier County on November 23 at Richfield, Utah.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Cleve Winget, Monroe; vice president, Mrs. Abe Hansen, Richfield; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Melba Bohman, Monroe; historian, Mrs. Vern Pace, Richfield; board members, Mrs. Evan Jensen, Monroe; Mrs. Vincent Bradley, Elsinore; Mrs. O. C. Anderson, Central; Mrs. Joseph Shaw, Vermilion; Mrs. William Gardner, Venice; and Mrs. Philip Shipp, Joseph.

Hostesses for the meeting were Mrs. Abe Hansen and Mrs. Vern Pace.

THE Fountain Green Chapter of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers Association has not been sending in regular reports on its activities, but we have a good organization.

Probably the most interesting of our activities was a wool-collecting day we had in May of 1932. Dressed as sheep herders and with regular pack outfits, our members canvassed the town and collected eighteen fleeces of wool, donated by the wool growers. Then in the afternoon, we had a camp fire dinner. Besides having an enjoyable day, we have been able to use the wool to very good advantage. Part of it we took to Provo and had made into wool batts, which we raffled off at the dance which closed the annual Lamb Day held in August of that year. The next spring we awarded seven of the fleeces as prizes for the cleanest and best-kept yards in our city. And the rest of the wool we turned into the Utah Woolen Mills in exchange for a woolen blanket which we sold at our spring dance in May of 1933.

Lamb Day is an annual event in our town. It is held in August of each year, and while the wool growers are in charge of the affair, the Ladies' Auxiliary always helps in serving the barbecued lamb sandwiches, and in carrying out the events of the day, which include a program, sports of various kinds, and a dance in the evening. We



Members of the Fountain Green Chapter of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers Association, in the full regalia of sheep herders, at the end of wool-collecting day. The fleeces, donated by the growers, were used in various ways to help finance the chapter.

usually have around 2000 people at these celebrations.

The first meeting of our chapter was held in November 1931, with 58 members. Our first officers were Ruby Ivory, president; Anne Cook, vice president; Elillian Ivory, secretary-treasurer; Hanna Mikkelsen, corresponding secretary, and Marie L. Allred, chaplain. At the beginning of 1934 our enrollment was 84.

Our present officers are: President, Martha D. Edler; first vice president, Jenna H. Hansen; second vice president, Alena L. Johnson; recording secretary, Ida L. Hansen; corresponding secretary, Lillian E. Coombs. Ida L. Hansen.

The Sheep Industry from an Eastern Viewpoint

DURING the past five years the farm flocks of the Middle West and East have been one of the most and, in many cases, the most profitable enterprises on the farms. In the case of many crops it has been difficult to get out of them more than the cost of production. With sheep, costs can be cut, as there need be no expensive seed or thresh bill. Farms which grow blue grass naturally have a real gold mine. Much of the land in the Middle West, when idle, sets to native blue grass. The cost of wintering ewes can be much reduced under such circumstances.

Optimism is warranted with regard to the future of farm flock hus-

bandry in the East. All meat animals are near the bottom of the production cycle due to both natural and artificial causes. I believe that today is the time to buy farm flocks because they will cost more later. This fall \$4 buys a good ewe. This is less per head than the good lambs are bringing this fall.

Discrimination in the lamb markets this fall has taught us a lesson. If we cannot raise choice lambs, we are better off without any. Buyers in the country demanded a lamb weighing not less than 75 pounds, or much more than 90 pounds. The underweight and thin lambs have been a drug on the market. Six cents at the farm with a very few at seven took most of the top fat lambs in New York; then the lower weights and quality had to drop to 4 or 5 cents. Many of the undesirables sold for a flat price of around \$2 a head. It is these mediocre lambs that cut the profit out of the business.

The Wool Grower has emphasized for years the importance of getting the industry on a quality basis. R. S. Matheson has been quoted time and again as saying, "We have a demand for choice lamb that we cannot satisfy."

The present active increase in consumer trade is sure to improve the wool market which has been overdue for some time for a revival. From reliable sources evidence is piling up that business is actually picking up in eastern trade centers.

Burdette, N. Y. Mark J. Smith

Competition, Cooperation, and Salesmanship

MY old friend Poole's write-up in the November Wool Grower on the "revolutionary, ruinous and preposterous" tactics of sheep salesmen on the Chicago market, October 23, to peg the top price, is interesting reading to an old timer, like myself, with about a half century's experience on the markets, first as a buyer and then as a salesman.

It is hard for me to believe, but it must have happened, for one day, that salesmen actually cooperated, holding out on local buyers until, as Mr. Poole says, "a new card came to the top of the pack" in the form of an independent eastern order which caused a "lifted lid," and a "clearance instantan." The cooperation on the part of the salesmen, in truth, was an innovation. I am pleased to have lived long enough to know that this could happen.

Mr. Poole makes no guess as to what the final results would have been, had not the "independent" buyer appeared on the scene. Mr. Poole does say, however, that the "new deal" proved to be "ephemeral." I am wondering if the experience so strained the nerves of the salesmen that they have permanently scrapped the idea!

Back in the 80's and 90's, when business was not conducted with the finger always on the trigger, when a few salesmen sold the majority of the sheep, it was quite usual to order hay, snap the locks, and leave the yards—giving the buyers until tomorrow to think it over. This was not done by any agreement, for then as now salesmen were not cooperatively minded. But experience had taught them the need of "scrapping" a bit to keep from being "eat up" as it were.

The appearance of the independent buyer cannot properly be classed as a part of the "new deal," as depicted by Mr. Poole. Eastern order buyers, termed independents, have caused a "lifting of the lid" many a time as Mr. Poole well knows.

The kernel of the nut, briefly stated, is: eliminate competition to sell.

Soda Springs, Idaho A. J. Knollin

Hearing on Denver Stock Yard Charges

A HEARING in connection with the charges at the Denver Union Stock Yards has been announced by the Secretary of Agriculture to take place in Denver, beginning March 18, 1935. A similar hearing was held some two or three years ago and resulted in the issuing of an order for a reduction in yardage charges. This was contested by the stockyard company and an injunction was obtained which prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from putting the lower rates into effect.

The hearing which is now announced to begin next March is evidently a fresh start on the old question of charges at the Denver market.

Wool Trade Code Authority is Inactive

A MEETING of the Wool Trade Code Authority was held at Boston on November 27. This is the first session of the full membership in several months. Representatives of the dealers have declined to complete the provisions relating to fair trade practices which, under the order of the N. R. A., were to have been put into effect last March. The N. R. A. has failed to call for compliance with its order.

At the recent meeting it was voted to continue the study of fair trade practice provisions so that they might be submitted in case the incoming congress shall require such action.

Colonel Harry B. Embach, manager of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, resigned as a member of the Wool Trade Code Authority and was succeeded by Durham Jones of the firm of Hallowell, Jones and Donald. Mr. Jones was

recently elected president of the Boston Wool Trade Association.

The present membership of the Authority is as follows:

Administration Members

A. Henry Thurston, Textile Section, N.R.A., Washington, D. C.
E. S. Haskell, A.A.A., Washington, D. C.
Frederic S. Snyder, N.R.A., Boston

Trade Members

Claude H. Ketchum, Boston
Walter M. Marston, Boston
Robert L. Studley, Boston
Durham Jones, Boston
Herbert K. Webb, Philadelphia

Alternates

George L. Anderson, Boston
Joseph P. Draper, Boston

Sheep Affairs in Yakima Valley

THE weather for the past six weeks throughout the State of Washington has been ideal in every respect. Rain, rain, rain practically every day so that the green grass is up three or four inches and we have never had better range conditions than exist at this writing, November 26.

Most of the sheep in the Yakima Valley have been on bottom pasture the last 60 or 90 days, which has been very expensive, but they are now going on to the range in fine condition. Hay has declined considerably during the past month and is now being sold at \$7.50 to \$8 in the stack.

At a recent meeting of the Washington Wool Growers it was decided to make wages for herders and camp tenders \$40 per month. Plenty of good men are available at this time of year. Yearling crossbred ewes of superior quality and weight sold before bucking at \$7.50 per head, bucked out at \$8 per head. There are no yearling fine-wools in this country. Crossbred ewe lambs have been bringing recently 6½ cents per pound.

I believe the number of ewes bred this fall will be about the same as last year, it being the custom to fill the bands depleted by loss and old ewes with yearlings every fall. I do not believe there are over 50 per cent of the number of ewe lambs

carried over in this country that there was last year. The ages of ewe bands in our district will run all the way from one to seven years. However, in this section I believe we average a little younger ewes than most districts as the custom has been to cull the bands closely every year.

While we all feel that it is an outrage that our mutton lambs have brought such a low price in Chicago and believe that packers could market the lambs offered at from one to two cents higher per pound than they have paid this season, we all hope and trust that, owing to the heavy decrease of breeding ewes throughout the country and the decrease in cattle and hogs, that our mutton lambs will bring a much higher price during 1935.

Wool has been very slow and selling at very reduced prices, but we hope the increased demand for woolen goods will at least stabilize the market where it is now pegged in Boston. Of course, foreign markets will have a lot to do with this and all we can expect is a price equivalent to what foreign wools can be laid down in this country.

We are wondering if an arrangement could not be made whereby wools could be appraised by government agencies at the time of shearing and the growers be allowed to sell the wool direct at not less than the appraised value. Under such an arrangement these wools could not be sold at a sacrifice price and consequently would not have a tendency to lower values. The sheepmen would thereby be able to save quite often the commission charges of two cents, sold in the original bag, or two and a half cents graded. Where sales were made direct they would obtain their returns much sooner than through the ordinary commission house deals.

We believe in supporting the National Wool Growers Association and that money spent in advertising the sheep industry, particularly wool and lamb, is not a donation but something that will be returned many times over to the growers in increased prices.

H. Stanley Coffin.

Questions in Public Domain Administration

FOUR months' progress in enforcement of the Taylor Grazing Act has brought considerable development in ideas on organization of districts, but a great deal remains to be worked out on numerous points of administration. There is room for honest differences of opinion as to what the law really says, and more room for discussion as to the policy to be laid down on points which the law leaves to the discretion of the Department of the Interior. In the letter printed below, Mr. M. A. Smith urges that stockmen study these points so that they may reach a lasting agreement and be in position fully to use the opportunity to cooperate with the government officials. Secretary Ickes and Director Carpenter have said repeatedly that they wish to have the aid and cooperation of the stockmen in making and carrying out rules or policies. Stockmen's study of the questions arising is essential to their being in a position to speak and act constructively.

In such study it will be well to consider the statements and suggestions contained in the following letter written to the Wool Grower by Moroni A. Smith, who is a land owner and sheep operator in Utah and Colorado:

TO THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER:

After careful observation of the procedure of the Department of the Interior in administering the Taylor Grazing Act, I have come to the definite conclusion that there should be appointed a committee composed of well-informed representatives from each of the public domain states, cooperating with the National Wool Growers Association, to act in an advisory capacity to the governmental officials in the formulating of the basic regulations for the administration of all the grazing districts now in the process of organization.

The purpose of this committee would be to get all the fundamental phases of the regulation of the grazing well threshed out at the start in order to avoid any injury to individual sheepmen or to the industry as a whole that might result if the Division of Grazing proceeds without the cooperation and information of such a group of men.

It is very important, of course, that the

members of such a committee, and stockmen generally, should study the Taylor Grazing Act, and agree among themselves as far as possible on what they consider the best way of administering the law in its fundamental phases. Unless we do agree and can assemble our ideas about the basic rules in some central body, we will not be very effective in protecting the interests of the wool growers.

It is important that wool growers should study this question carefully in advance of the National Convention to be held at Phoenix at the end of January. The Department of the Interior will have gone quite a ways by that time and we should be ready quietly to reach an agreement as to the producers' position.

As a basis of discussion by stockmen in reaching an agreement as to some of the features of the administration of the Taylor Act, I am offering some personal opinions and ideas.

The object of a law is recited in its title and the title of the Taylor Grazing Act reads:

An Act

To stop injury to the public grazing lands by preventing overgrazing and soil deterioration,

To provide for their orderly use, improvement, and development,

To stabilize the livestock industry dependent upon the public range, and for other purposes,

Then in the latter part of Section 3, the law states that "so far as consistent with the purpose and provisions of this Act, grazing privileges recognized and acknowledged shall be adequately safeguarded."

For the past forty or fifty years, and even before, it has been the regular custom of the wool grower to take his flocks from the winter ranges on the deserts to the green feeds on the foothills in the spring and on up to the higher mountains during the summer period, and in the fall to bring them back again to the lower altitudes, to the deserts, for the most part, in the intermountain states. It was not because the wool grower was a nomad that this practice was developed, but because such procedure was necessary to utilize the ranges fully in the proper seasons and to make use of the forage that was produced on the extreme end of the public range as it then existed. No other livestock has proved so satisfactory in utilizing the grazing resources of the deserts.

The efficient and profitable production of sheep in the intermountain areas was made possible by this custom and the entire grazing resource was correlated: the desert was made dependent upon the higher moun-

tains for its proper utilization and in turn the higher altitudes were made dependent upon the deserts and the rest of the public domain.

There is no other class of livestock so dependent upon the public range as the sheep industry, nor one that has so regularly used it. For it is a fact that there is insufficient hay or other forage produced to winter feed more than a small portion of the western sheep population, and at the same time supply enough feed for the necessary domestic animals, such as milk cows, work horses, etc., and the fattening of a few beef and lambs.

It seems to me, therefore, that the needs of the sheep industry are set forth in the title of the Taylor Grazing Act.

The administration of this Act will be somewhat similar to the process of distributing water rights to various individuals in districts where regulation was not deemed necessary or at least was not made until the water had been over-appropriated and adjudications became necessary. The fact must be recognized that all ranges are fully stocked and there is no room for new men without the elimination of some of the established livestock grazers.

The Issuance of Permits

It seems to me that no permit should be issued to any applicant until due and legal notice has been given to all stockmen to make applications, and that all permits which are issued should be based on the legal qualifications of the individual stockman. And to my mind, the livestock men should be permitted to examine any or all applications filed, and to protest against the issuance of a permit or permits to any one not legally entitled to receive them under the law.

I also think permits should be issued to the individual or corporation owning and operating the permitted livestock and not to associations organized in connection with the grazing districts, although the local association is to govern the use of the grazing lands. Permits should be a property right and transferable with or without livestock or lands.

The issuance of permits is covered in Section 3 of the Taylor Act.

As I interpret this section, the Secretary of the Interior, or his duly appointed agent, must issue the permits to graze, also must pass upon the qualifications of the applicant as to the number of stock he is entitled to graze.

It appears to me that forest permits are a more important asset to a set-up for operating livestock than a land lease of five years and should receive proper consideration in the granting of permits. At this time many of the men who will be grazers under the Taylor Act are holders of permits to use the forest reserves during the summer time. Certainly these forest holdings are an essential part of the set-up,

for the use of the lands that are now embraced in the grazing districts has been for many years dependent upon the correlated use of the grazing in the forest reserves and the use of privately owned land. The cultivated areas lying between the public ranges are not very dependent on the use of the range because they can produce a variety of farm products of more value than feed for livestock, or they can be operated for the finishing of beef and lambs.

Prior Use

Director Carpenter made the statement at Rifle, Colorado, on September 20, 1934, before a meeting of the livestock committees appointed in connection with the organization of Grazing District No. 1, that the entire West was built up on the principle of prior use and that recognition must be made of priority. When the forest reserves were created, practically all grazing permits were issued on a prior-use basis for all livestock in all the forests, except in some few instances where permits were granted to small new grazers after all the prior users had been taken care of.

Certain questions have arisen in my mind in connection with prior use that seem to me to require a definite ruling or regulation:

Question No. 1. Can preferences or prior-use right be established in grazing livestock by (a) a new user on an overstocked range, or by (b) a new user on a fully stocked range?

Question No. 2. Can a regular user establish a preference or prior-use right on an overstocked, or fully stocked range by grazing numbers of livestock in addition to the stock he had regularly grazed before the range was fully stocked or overstocked?

For example, a regular user of the public domain ran 5,000 head of sheep on the public domain for many years and accordingly established a prior-use right for that number. During the last five years the section of the range used by him has become overstocked due to the coming of new men and the increase in holdings of older users. Our operator increased his flock by, say 1,000 head during this period. Now, won't his status, so far as this increase is concerned, be the same as that of a new user on the overstocked range?

The acquiring of prior rights to a public resource is based on the beneficial use of such resource, but, of course, it is implied that such a right could not be acquired if the resource was already being put to a beneficial use by other interests or persons. In the case just cited above, it is apparent that the livestock that were added after the range became fully stocked could not in reality cause a division of the forage because it had already been appropriated by regular users previous to the fully stocked or overstocked period.

Another question is this: What length of time will non-use of the public range

work an abandonment of a preference or prior-use under the Taylor Act? As I understand it, all forms of prior-use rights are automatically relinquished by non-use of the resource involved. Along in the early period of appropriating water, the State of Utah, under the common law, held that non-use of water from five to seven years automatically worked an abandonment to the right to the use of the water. At a later date a statute was enacted that made non-use for seven years a statutory abandonment to the right to the use of the water in Utah.

Suggestions for Use of the Grazing

In the beginning and for the first several years, it seems to me, the owners of permitted sheep should be allowed to graze their sheep in common as they have done in the past; each permittee could graze in whatever portion of the district he chose. Of course, there is the question of whether different classes of livestock should use the range in common, or whether certain areas should be designated for each class. This is a matter that will probably have to be decided by the cattle and sheepmen themselves.

Lambs on Feed

THE Department of Agriculture's estimate of lambs on feed was published on November 19 for the first of that month. The report shows that for the four fall months there was an increase of one third over last year in the shipments of lambs through stockyard markets in the corn belt. The increase was principally in the eastern corn belt, which suffered less severely from the drouth. However, Iowa and Minnesota took more lambs than in any other year since 1930. Nebraska and Kansas have taken smaller numbers.

A large movement of lambs direct from the range to wheat pastures in Kansas and the North Platte Valley section of Nebraska was also reported. Only small numbers will be fed in Missouri and South Dakota. Northern Colorado was reported to be from 15 to 25 per cent below last year, with a larger reduction in the Arkansas Valley.

The government report also showed that movements of cattle into the six main corn belt states were the smallest on record for the four-month period.

Lamb Market Conditions and Prices

Chicago

REMOTE control of live mutton trade has been variously diagnosed. It may be traced directly from the man who places bids at the market to the "mutton man" concealed in Packingtown. At that point the scent fades. That a colored brother is concealed in the wood pile is consensus of opinion, but the exact location of this mysterious Senegambian is beyond human ken.

Ever and anon this remote control loses efficacy, as was demonstrated during the second and final weeks of November, but during prolonged periods recently it has been effective one hundred per cent, defying the much advertised law of supply and demand. Even when supply was reduced one half, subsequent to subsidence of western lamb gathering, values did not change one cent per hundred until pressure blew the lid sky high, and a somewhat spectacular advance of \$1 per hundred in four consecutive days resulted. Just how and why it happened is a question to be propounded to the sphinx.

During a period when a spread of \$8 to \$9.75 has taken the bulk of corn-fed cattle and average cost of hogs to packers has been \$8 to \$8.25 per hundred, including the tax, a \$6 to \$6.25 lamb market needs elucidation, not to talk of a \$1.50 to \$2.50 fat ewe trade. A stagnant wool market is an alibi deserving consideration, but the time-worn argument of excessive supply may be junked as that condition never existed. Possibly curtailed consumption was a factor, but that sounds somewhat piscatorial as there has been scant necessity for resorting to freezing. What has become of the campaign to popularize lamb? Normally this meat is a semi-luxury; on this occasion it has been the underdog of the trade.

During November lamb prices uncovered the lowest, but attained the highest prices of the season—but

the pyrotechnics were brief. During the second week a \$7.10 top was made, but the resultant and prompt slump put the top back to \$6.50 and the packer price to \$6.25. On the last round another spurt elevated butchers' top to \$7.40, packers paying up to \$7.25. In no logical way can this be explained than that supply was reduced to the starvation point, the wool market picked up and a few eastern orders injected a modicum of confidence. The November market was a distinct disappointment to feeders, who resented apparent price control by holding lambs back, a policy facilitated by open weather. Had receipts been normal the appreciation would have been impossible; as it was, putting \$1 per hundred on practically every lamb in the supply did not pull feeders out of a financial hole.

In the search for control possibilities the spot light falls on the chain store system of buying dressed lamb. That system has so concentrated purchasing as to dominate the trade. Toward processors the attitude of chain store buyers is "take-it-or-leave-it." They have a powerful weapon with which to enforce their edicts, exclusion of the product from their sales program. The extent to which a few chain stores control meat disbursement under the new dispensation is not generally understood. Already it amounts to tyranny. Processors, of course, say nothing except "off the record," then they become picturesquely profane. Every processor in the country is scrambling for chain store business; failure to secure a slice of it means reduced volume. A group of chain store buyers, acting in concert, may dictate not only prices but other factors to killers and in the case of lamb this involves weight. Under the old distribution dispensation, retailers took variety both in weight and quality; chain store buyers dictate standards on both accounts and in the matter of price their edicts are

equivalent to the immutable Median and Persian laws.

Strangulation of competition was undoubtedly the primary factor of market demoralization during November, otherwise diminished supply would have promptly effected recover. Wool was a secondary factor. Poultry competition may be eliminated as that season had not commenced during the demoralization period and at its inception the lamb market enjoyed a miniature boom. At the low point when the packer top was \$6.25 the price level was back to that of May, 1933.

The bulge which became emphatic prior to the Thanksgiving event was preceded by a series of bare markets. Even this might not have been effective, but for the arrival of a bunch of shipping orders. The advance was strenuously resisted, such time-worn arguments as "wool worth nothing," "dressed trade demoralized," and "going to the freezer," being requisitioned, but, as usual, in the finality of scarcity, the stabilization program blew up. That it will be resumed at the earliest opportunity is one of the few certainties in an uncertain trade.

So far feeders have not been seriously injured, as cheap gains were possible up to December. An open fall season, with luxuriance of pasture in consequence of September precipitation, made relatively cheap carrying possible, but as feed soared the winter problem has become serious. From 70 cents corn steadily advanced to \$1 per bushel; husking disclosed low yields of deficient quality and an army of trucks raided sections where corn was a fair crop to relieve distress in Missouri, southern Iowa and trans-Missouri areas, increasing difficulty attendant on securing a local supply of feed. Open weather enabled farm handlers of contract lambs to hold back on short grain rations, the result being that the bulk of these lambs were so deficient in condition that sending them

to the butcher in November was impossible, and it may work out that December loading will be light for the same reason. On this account speculation as to the probable course of December and January markets would be futile.

A big gob of contract lambs in the corn belt is causing concern. Unless further appreciation develops they will lose money both for feeders and western owners. Even on the rise farm feeders had only about \$1 per head, on a 15-pound gain, to go on and as corn advances their footing becomes more slippery.

Although weather conditions have reduced cost of gains on the farm feed-lot operations during the winter will be seriously handicapped unless the fat lamb market can be put on an \$8 basis and maintained with reasonable stability. At commercial feeding stations maintenance cost is five cents per head per day; a 10-pound gain per head requires 30 days at a cost of 15 cents per pound, so that the route through the feed-lot will be straight and short.

Farm contract feeders are operating variously, some taking market price for their gain; others getting a cash premium, but in any event they will embrace the earliest opportunity to go to town, as the fat price is not likely to equal gain cost.

If statistical information is credible, visible supply is heavy and the November hold-back has increased it. Until corn belt holdings are out, a profitable market from the feeders' standpoint is improbable; thereafter western feeders may have an inning, but recent reports indicate that Nebraska and Colorado have tucked away more lambs than expected early in the season. Replacement east of the Missouri River will be light, although November developed an urgent, if not insatiable, Michigan and New York demand for thin western lambs at \$5@5.75 per hundred.

Native lambs are practically all in. Never before has the corn belt area produced as excellent a crop. Both with respect to numbers and condition, it was a surprise; "buck" lambs were few and trimming the rule. Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa farmers are acquiring a knack of making good lambs and supply from that source must be reckoned with in the future.

Improvement in wool trade has been mildly reflected in the live mutton market, shorn and woolled lambs no longer selling at a parity. Shorn stock at the end of November was 50 cents per hundred below woolled goods. The parity basis was illogical although lambs minus the wool were high dressers. Packers are talking a dollar spread as the season works along.

Frequently the market has lapsed into a one-price affair, bucks and culls out, but this will change if any considerable proportion of supply lacks condition, which feed prices insure.

All this points to a treacherous market, with sudden and violent fluctuations. Truck hauling in the corn belt aggravates this condition as, in response to 25-cent upturns at the market one day, at least mild congestion is the rule on the next session. Stability is possible only at low levels. The bulge late in November put fat lambs on practically the same basis as at the corresponding period of 1933; dressed trade has been about \$1 per hundred higher than at that time right along, ignoring depreciated prices on the hoof. For this wool prices afford a reasonable alibi. Current wholesale cost of dressed carcasses at Chicago ranges from \$10 to \$14 per hundred; a year ago it was \$8.50@12.50; at eastern markets quotations rule 50 cents to \$1 per hundred higher than Chicago.

A market that can be stimulated only by starvation supply is to be viewed with suspicion. Based on expectancy of lower temperatures and revival of eastern demand, a ray of hope is justified, but as winter works along a huge package of lambs must be absorbed.

J. E. Poole.

St. Joseph

SHEEP receipts for November were very light, being approximately 46,300, around 41,000 less than the same month a year ago, and the lightest November since 1920, when receipts were 42,343. Of the month's total 14,171 were from the West, and of these 10,132 were from Idaho.

The lamb market during the first fifteen days did not show much change—natives, westerns and clips all selling \$6.50@6.75 for top kinds. During the next week prices went down to \$6.00 for best, but the last week, with exceedingly light receipts, prices showed an advance of fully \$1.00. Best natives and fed westerns sold on late days at \$7.00, with clips \$6.50@6.60. No rangers were received on late days, but such kinds were quoted around \$6.75. Feeding lambs were in very light showing throughout the month with values holding steady at \$5.50@5.75. Yearlings closed 75 cents @ \$1.00 higher, with choice kinds quoted \$5.75@6.00 on late days. Older sheep closed about 50 cents higher, best ewes selling late \$2.25@2.75, and wethers and two's \$3.50@4.50.

H. H. Madden.

Denver

LIGHTER receipts of fat lambs at Denver during November and a broader outlet from packer and shipper channels boosted prices on this class from 50 to 75 cents and more in instances, the rise coming generally near the close of the month. Feeder lambs were from 25 to 50 cents higher and a similar advance was noted on fat ewes.

Receipts of sheep during the past month totaled 125,753 head, of which 13,156 drouth ewes were included. In November a year ago 219,643 woolies were received.

Idaho and Colorado fat lambs sold early in the month up to \$6.50, with many other loads of Colorados and westerns between \$5.75 and \$6.40. At the close of the month, carlots

of fat woollies sold at \$6.85, with choice kinds quotable upward to \$7 or higher on a freight paid basis. Feeder lambs sold early at \$4.75 to \$5.50, with late sales of desirable grades from \$5.50 to \$5.85 and only medium to plain lambs landing downward from \$5.25.

W. N. Fulton.

Omaha

THE fat lamb market finally showed signs of revival late in November after a prolonged period of lethargy. A rally in the few final sessions put prices at levels 50 cents above final October figures, with the top at \$7, the highest since the middle of August. Receipts were 84,781 head, the smallest for any November since 1899 and the lightest for any month since June, 1917. Receipts were limited not only locally but around the seven-market circuit. Dearth of supplies, however, failed to stimulate the trade, and demand, except at the extreme finish, was weak and indifferent. Fluctuations were erratic, with prices reaching both extremes during the month—a season's low of \$6 and a high of \$7. Sluggish dressed markets and continued dormancy in wool were the main bearish influences.

Movement from the ranges of the West was just about completed and only scattered consignments were received after mid-month. Bulk of the available supply was fed lambs, mostly of the woolled variety, although natives came in good volume, decreasing seasonally. At the close of the month, fed woolled kinds and natives sold at \$7, while fed shorn lambs, which sold on a par with woolled kinds a month previous, were under a half dollar differential, moving at \$6.50. Heavy natives, those weighing over 95 pounds, also met with ill favor and sold at discounts of 50 cents to \$1.

Prices of feeding lambs were more stable and showed slight variation throughout the month. Demand, while not urgent, was sufficient to

take care of modest supplies. Reflecting scant receipts, the outgo of feeders during November was the lowest for the month in many a year, a total of 16,022 head were taken out for further finish, compared with 72,337 in October, and 31,685 last year. Movement was mainly to the country, and commercial feed lot operators continued hesitant on account of high feed costs and uncertainty in regard to the future of the fat market. Dollar corn and \$25 alfalfa narrowed the margin too much to encourage would-be lamb fatteners.

H. F. Lee.

Kansas City

THE November lamb market started with a rising tendency, weakened to the lowest position of the year and then rallied to the highest point since late August. The early upturn gave much promise but it was snuffed out more quickly, than it started, and without apparent reason. Receipts were light all month and the low point came when the supply seemed to be the smallest. The final upturn came with no more evident cause than the break had occurred, except that lower prices seemed to contact a broader demand.

October closed with a \$6.60 top. November started at \$6.70, went to \$6.75 in the first few days, broke a dime, rallied to \$6.75 and then gradually receded to a low point of \$6, November 19 and 20. The upturn which began on the 21st, netted a \$1 rise by the 28th when the \$7 price was recorded. The top in late August was \$7; September and October tops \$6.60, and November disclosed numerous sales at \$6.75 to \$7 and to that extent at least November was better than October, but it was the low dip to \$6 in the third week that made the November average below the October average. In one week's time the market touched the low and high points of a three months' period.

The lamb market did not find much support in the wool trade. For a time shorn lambs sold as high as full wool kinds, so that the dressed

product had to carry the full burden of first cost. Lack of finish made killers cautious most of the month. Towards the close offerings began to show better finish, due to the use of grain feeds. However, a great many lambs in the past thirty days have gone to shambles that in a year with average feed crops would have gone to feed lots. Considering the severe summer conditions and shortage in range and pasture feeds producers did remarkably well to supply as large a per cent of the lambs as they did that could be used for slaughter.

November carried one of the most unusual distributions of feeding lambs on record. The north central and east central corn belt, together with a strip in Kentucky and Tennessee south and east of the Ohio River got the largest per cent of thin lambs taken east of the Missouri River. The Platte Valley in Nebraska, especially the west end, and northern Colorado took more thin lambs than had been expected, but there were sharp drops in supplies that went into the Arkansas and San Luis valleys in Colorado. South central and eastern Kansas, the winter wheat belt of Oklahoma and Texas, in the aggregate have more sheep and lambs on winter wheat pasturage than were ever before in those areas. In the lot are a good many ewes that will be returned to the sheep belt in Texas if weather conditions become unfavorable. Thus far lambs on wheat have done well and shipments will be as rapid as the lambs round into shape. Taking all feeding into consideration it looks as if an unusually large per cent of all lambs will have been marketed by the middle of February.

November receipts, 79,000, were practically the same as a year ago and among the smallest on record for that month. Exclusive of the 14,000 received by the government, the commercial supply was a low record for the eleventh month of the year. The total for the eleven months was 1,676,400, or 78,000 more than the same period last year.

C. M. Pipkin.

Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 12)

WASHINGTON

Okanogan

Conditions are exceptionally good at this time. We have had lots of rain, the grass is green, and feed is good on the winter range. From \$8 to \$10 a ton is the present price range on alfalfa hay in the stack.

We have about the same number of old ewes in our flocks as a year ago; about the same number of ewes are being bred, and a few more lambs were retained this year for stock purposes.

The mild winter of 1933-34 was very beneficial to coyotes. They are increasing in numbers, and so far no government trappers have appeared on the scene.

Herders are getting from \$40 to \$50 a month; camp tenders, \$40.

D. P.

OREGON

Mild, pleasant temperatures prevailed, but with some frosty nights toward the close. Rains were frequent in the western portion, and occasional in the eastern portion, replenishing moisture supplies generally, more especially in the west. It was too wet in the west for plowing the last week. Rains in the eastern portion were fine for winter wheat and ranges, with some snow in the mountains. Livestock are generally in satisfactory condition.

Echo

Weather conditions are fine here; it is warm, there has been some rain, and the range is good. About enough hay has been raised to feed the stock here this winter. On October 1, it was quoted at \$10 a ton (in the stock); today it is \$7.

The ewes are of better ages because a lot of the old ones have gone to the government. About the same number are being bred as a year ago, and about 10 per cent more ewe lambs have been kept for replace-

ments. A sale of crossbred yearlings has been reported recently at \$6 a head.

The Biological Survey does not seem to be getting results on the coyote problem. They are more numerous than ever. I think a small bounty should be placed on them as there are so many idle men who could make a living by trapping.

The present wage for herders is \$40 a month.

Charles Bartholomew.

Mitchell

We have had good weather during the last month and the winter range looks good at this time (December 3).

Fewer ewes are being bred this season, but they are all young, as the government has taken all the old ewes. About the same number of ewe lambs have been held back. Some yearling fine-wooled ewes have changed hands recently at \$6 a head.

There are not so many trappers at work, due to the low price of furs, and as a result coyotes are increasing.

S. J. Connolly

Vistillas

Weather conditions are very good for winter range but the storms came a little late for fall feed; more storms or precipitation during November than we have had for some years.

Alfalfa hay is selling around \$10 per ton in the stack. Herders' and camp tenders' wages are \$40 per month.

Sales of yearling ewes are negligible. Fewer ewes are being bred this fall than last year. About 5 per cent of ewes have been sold to the government under the drouth relief plan. Ewes are still a little old but the sale of aged ewes to the government has cut the average somewhat.

About the same number of ewe lambs were kept this year as last.

Coyotes are gradually increasing because of the low price of furs. I am in favor of the bounty system, as I think the cost of catching them per head is less and more certain.

Boyd M. Adams

CALIFORNIA

Temperatures were mostly about normal, or slightly above, while rain was moderately heavy and frequent over the northern portion, and occasional in helpful amounts farther south, excepting only the deserts. Pastures and winter grains have been benefited, but farm work was delayed by rainy weather and wet ground, in places. Sunshine was also reported deficient in places. Some new feed is now available on northern ranges. Livestock are as a rule in satisfactory condition.

Mendota

Conditions are very good here (December 2); feed prospects fine. Hay, however, is priced at \$12 a ton now.

Most of our ewes are aged and mixed, and I do not believe quite so many have been bred this year as last.

We are paying herders \$45 a month.

Coyotes are more numerous because the low price of skins has kept trappers away.

P. L. Arbios.

Durham

Excellent weather and feed conditions are prevailing at this time (December 1); about 100 per cent, I should say.

Eight dollars per head is being asked for yearling ewes, but I have not heard of any sales recently. I think about the same number of ewes are being bred this season as last. The ewes are mostly middle aged to old, but about 25 per cent more ewe lambs were held back this year for stock purposes.

We had more coyotes during the

(Continued to page 30)

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Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 27)

summer than usual, probably because we had no government trappers in this district last winter.

Baxter Bros.

Willits

The weather is very mild and the green grass is coming on excellently (November 27). The winter feed prospects are very good; in fact, the best in ten years. We have only small flocks here and use no herders.

Slightly more ewe lambs were retained for breeding purposes this year than last. I think about the same number of ewes are being bred this season. The bands are about average in age; haven't heard of any yearlings for sale. Sheep in general are in excellent condition with prospects for a good lamb crop in Mendocino County.

We have no serious coyote losses, due to the excellent work of the Bio-

logical Survey. Government hunters and trappers are doing good work here.

D. T. Bennett.

NEVADA

The month's temperatures were generally above normal, and precipitation was generous in some northern sections; but farther south, and over much of the middle area, rain has been insufficient, and snow is needed to allow sheep to occupy the winter ranges. Some cold weather in the last week was less favorable, and moderate snows fell generally in the northern sections, at the higher elevations; the valleys are still bare. Pasturage thereabouts is rather good in many places. Only a few sheep are moving to winter ranges, because of the scarcity of feed and moisture.

Elko

There is plenty of snow and rain at this time (November 28). The feed has been covered by the snow and supplemental feeding has been started. The winter range is so poor that it will be necessary to feed a good deal of corn. Alfalfa hay is \$8 a ton in the stack.

A lot of old sheep have been sold to the government, but we still have plenty of fives and sixes left. It is estimated that the number of ewes to be bred will be 25 per cent under that of a year ago. I do not believe that any more ewe lambs have been held back for replacements than in other years. Six dollars has recently been paid for yearling crossbred ewes.

There are more coyotes than for the past ten years, due to the fact that government trappers have been taken off this district, and also to the low price of furs.

Wages for both herders and camp tenders are \$50 a month.

Prospects for next year look mighty good, as we have had lots of moisture and a liberal supply of snow in the mountains already. We also feel that prices will be better next year. After four tough years it looks as if we might get a break at last.

J. H. Carter Estate Co.

UTAH

Three weeks of mild weather, without much storm were followed by colder weather with moderately heavy precipitation generally over the state, the northern portion getting the most snow. At this time the desert ranges received snow, enabling flocks to spread from water, and improving the feed somewhat; but ranges are mostly fair or poor because of the dry summer. Range livestock are also only fair to poor, but animals in feeding yards are good. Feed consumption was much greater during the cold, snowy weather. The country has been bare of snow until lately.

Wellsville

November has brought us good weather and at this time (November 26), the range is good in some places, but poor in others. Alfalfa hay is costing us \$10 a ton in the stack.

Yearling crossbred ewes have been selling at \$4 a head and fine-wools at \$5. Not so many ewes are being bred this year, about a fourth less. We kept more ewe lambs this fall to build up our flocks with.

We have had no trappers here and the coyotes are on the increase.

Gilbert N. Anderson.

COLORADO

Winter grains and ranges were materially benefited in western counties by rains and snows late in the month. Feed was softened and grazing areas extended. Eastern grain fields are showing the lack of moisture. Southeastern feeder livestock are first class, but most range animals are only fair to poor. Moisture is badly needed for ranges and water holes over eastern counties generally. Some winter wheat has died after coming up in eastern counties. Livestock over western counties have failed somewhat because of feed shortages, and there is not an abundance of hay for winter.

Hot Sulphur Springs

The weather has been fine and stock are doing well (November 15). Range feed prospects are normal, but the hay crop for winter is about 75 per cent of normal. However, there was some old hay left over.

There are no yearling ewes for sale in this county. The last transactions reported were on the basis of \$5 to \$6 per head for crossbreds. All of the lambs from this section are marketed and the necessary ewe replacements purchased from other districts. About 10 per cent of the ewes around here have been taken over by the government in the drouth program. The ewes range in age from one to six years.

James Ainsley.

Montrose

Conditions here are below normal (November 10); water is short. We depend on corn and cake for our winter feeding.

There will be very few old ewes left in this section after the government purchases are finished. More ewe lambs (about 5 per cent) have been kept for flock purposes, and about the same number of yearling ewes are on hand as a year ago. A few crossbreds have been sold at \$5.50 per head. Five cents a pound has taken feeder lambs.

John B. Allies.

NEW MEXICO

Mild dry weather prevailed the first half of the month, with some beneficial rains during the latter half. Still more rain is needed over much of the state, especially the southern Plains areas. In the northeast, wheat and rye pastures have lately made much improvement and will be utilized, largely by cattle. Cold weather the last week was hard on all animals. Livestock water is needed in most sections. On the whole, livestock are in poor to fair shape, ranges generally having been the poorest of recent record.

(Continued to page 34)

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200 Ram Lambs

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- 2—The National is located in Boston—wool marketing center of the United States.
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- 6—The National has established a reputation second to none for fair dealings with its mill customers.
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- 8—Orderly marketing through the National, if consistently followed through a term of years, will yield the best returns.

National Wool Marketing Corporation

281 SUMMER STREET

BOSTON, MASS.

To the Wool Growers of the United States

We fully appreciate the responsibility of marketing the substantial amount of wool we have received, and wish to express our appreciation for the growers' support.

Wool values have not been maintained on the basis we at first expected, due largely to the very complicated foreign situation, which has reduced wool values abroad, but which no one could foresee. Everything is being done, however, to maintain values on a proper relative basis with foreign wools, and there is no intention whatever on the part of those who are attempting to stabilize this market to allow any further reduction in prices here unless forced to by foreign competition, which today seems most unlikely.

While the market has been extremely dull for some time, there are a great many factors on the horizon that could materially improve this situation, and we have no doubt but that all the available wool will be needed. If growers will continue to work with us, and exercise the necessary amount of patience, we feel sure they will be satisfied with our efforts.

The cheap wool that is being offered from the West today is one factor that is very upsetting to this market, and it would be far better for the whole industry if these Western wools that are being offered from there were shipped to us so they could not undermine the prices that have been established here.

National Wool Marketing Corporation

Salt Lake Union Stock Yards

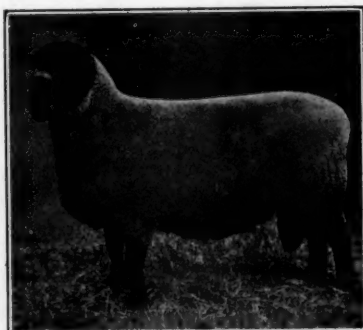
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Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 34)

Cuba

The weather has been fine, but the feed is not good; there is no feed on the range at all (November 14).

We still have quite a few old ewes left, although a good many have been taken by the government.

Evaristo Apodaca.

ARIZONA

Warm days with cool nights prevailed, bringing more or less frost in most of the grazing counties. Dry weather was the rule, though rains lately, with snows at the higher places, have relieved the drouth somewhat. Ranges have shown improvement since the more recent rains, and livestock are good in the higher country. The desert sheep ranges should also show appreciable improvement from the rains in the last week or ten days generally.

Heber

It has been an unusually dry fall until the recent rains (November 17-19). We now have some snow on top of the higher elevations, and water shortages that were becoming serious have been relieved.

Fewer sheep are being trailed south for February lambing by 50 per cent and it is reported that two of the larger outfits are changing 80 per cent of their ewes to a May lambing schedule.

General feed conditions on the ranges are poorer than a year ago and most bands are in just fair condition.

More ewe lambs are being kept for replacement purposes, especially in February lambing outfits where heaviest losses occurred. No yearlings are offered and the last reported sale was at \$5.50 for fine-wools.

Practically no fat lambs were shipped from February lambing outfits. The bulk of the feeder movement was in early November and brought from 4 to 4¾ cents per pound, with the ewe end included.

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sensible prices"

Old ewe purchasing is just starting in the northern tier of counties, and a great many are expressing dissatisfaction over the regulations and would rather risk carrying old ewes than to be forced later to limit production.

Much confusion exists among the stockmen over the application and interpretation of the Taylor Grazing Act. Plenty of criticism also arose over the movement of drouth-stricken New Mexico sheep and cattle into northeastern Arizona counties. Some sort of regulation under the Taylor law will put an end to feeding off winter ranges in summer and its consequent danger.

Coyotes are more numerous than a year ago and very little trapping is being done.

Herders are getting \$40 per month and camp tenders \$35.

Black Canyon Sheep Co.

Chandler

It is very dry here (November 10) and prospects for feed are not very good. The range is poor and alfalfa pastures are high in price in the valley.

No yearlings are being sold around here. Most of the ewes are old, but no one is selling any of them under the drouth relief program. More ewe lambs are being held for stock ewes in Arizona than in previous years.

Irving L. Gibson.

WESTERN TEXAS

Temperatures averaged unusually high through the month, while precipitation was about normal at Amarillo, much above at San Angelo, and far below at Del Rio. Ranges have lately improved appreciably where they had rain. Cattle are generally fair to good, though in a few places they are poor. Fall grains were also improved where it rained. More rain is needed in most of western Texas, especially the southwestern portion.

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Sheep Shearers Protest

TO THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER:

WE believe it to be fitting and proper for us to comment on the article contained in the November issue of the National Wool Grower, entitled "An Original Wool Sack Marking System to Protect Wool."

In this article, signed by Thomas A. Nicholas, the following statement is made: "It is known that thieves (sometimes including shearers who know the ground) take advantage of the lack of system on the

ranch, to take a few sacks of wool at night."

We strenuously object to that part of the article. The article, as published, has a tendency to give the general public the impression that sheep shearers are of a thieving class. In my thirty years of experience as a traveling sheep shearer I have never yet found where any shearer was prosecuted or found guilty of the theft of wool.

May I say in all frankness that if evidence can be furnished of any member of this union having committed himself to the act of stealing wool, we will feel that it is our duty to assist your association, or the sheepmen, in prosecuting the guilty party.

Sheep Shearers' Union

A. A. Evans, President

Butte, Montana

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For history of the breed, list of members, rules, pedigree blanks, etc., address the Secretary.

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